City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

City Council

Monday, June 17, 2019
7:00 PM
Regular

Council Chamber
Columbia City Hall
701 E. Broadway

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

The City Council of the City of Columbia, Missouri met for a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 17, 2019, in the Council Chamber of the City of Columbia, Missouri. Mayor Treece commented that earlier this morning, former mayor, Darwin Hindman, had passed away. In acknowledgement of his fifteen years of service as mayor of the City and his lifetime of service to the Columbia community, he asked everyone in attendance to join him in a moment of silence. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited after the moment of silence, and the roll was then taken with the following results: Council Members TREECE, RUFFIN, TRAPP, SKALA, THOMAS, PITZER, and PETERS were present. The Interim City Manager, City Counselor, City Clerk, and various Department Heads and staff members were also present.

The minutes of the regular meeting of June 3, 2019 were approved unanimously by voice vote on a motion by Mr. Skala and a second by Mayor Treece.

The agenda, including the consent agenda, was approved unanimously by voice vote on a motion by Mayor Treece and a second by Mr. Trapp.

II. SPECIAL ITEMS

None.

III. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Upon receiving the majority vote of the Council, the following individuals were appointed to the following Boards and Commissions.

BROADBAND BUSINESS PLANNING TASK FORCE
Alspaugh, Bruce, 2815 Skyview Road, Ward 3
Angell, Natasha, 1916 Thoreau Court, Ward 2
Aumiler, Christopher, 2206 Oak Harbor Court, Ward 5
Knoth, Nick, 2811 Lynnwood Drive, Ward 5
Kohly, Matt, 2703 Clark Lane (business address), Boone County
Paul, Danny, 6475 Russian Setter Circle, Boone County
Schaefer, Sue, 4616 NE Kingston Drive, Jackson County

COLUMBIA AND BOONE COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD
Harrison, Philip, 210 Westwood Avenue, Ward 4, Term to expire June 30, 2022
Kimura, Andrea, 1300 Subella Drive, Ward 4, Term to expire June 30, 2022

COMMISSION ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ART
Burns, Tootie, 310 E. Brandon Road, Ward 5, Term to expire July 1, 2022
Mr. Trapp suggested they delay appointments to the Community Land Trust Organization Board as it would create quorum issues if they only appointed one representative as an occupant of a Community Land Trust home. Mr. Skala stated he did not object to the delay. Mayor Treece agreed and encouraged eligible members to apply.

Mayor Treece commented that he understood the applicant to the Downtown Columbia Leadership Council did not yet live within the city limits. He suggested they delay appointments to it as well. Mr. Ruffin and Mr. Skala were agreeable.

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMISSION
Brown, Lincoln, 53 Broadway Village Drive, Apt. C, Ward 6, Term to expire June 1, 2021

WATER AND LIGHT ADVISORY BOARD
Fines, Scott, 2269 Concordia Drive, Ward 4, Term to expire June 30, 2023
Jensen, Thomas, 2416 Wild Oak Court, Term to expire June 30, 2023

Mayor Treece thanked Dick Parker for his ten-plus years of service to the Water and Light Advisory Board and noted they had been grateful for his input and expertise over the years.

Mr. Skala commented that with the consent of Council he would be more than happy to serve as a Council liaison member of the Broadband Business Planning Task Force. Mayor Treece understood there was not a Council liaison position, but noted he would be happy to have that connection if there was not an objection. Mr. Trapp stated he would be supportive.

Mayor Treece explained the work of this Task Force was important to him as he felt it would be catalytic to the economy and intended to be at the first meeting to layout a vision.

Mr. Skala noted some groups in the past had included Council liaisons, and provided the Parking and Traffic Management Task Force as an example as he and Mr. Trapp had served as co-chairs. He explained they were sometimes voting members and at other times were not. He stated he had also served on the Drinking Water Planning Work Group. He commented that he thought it was important for the public sector to be represented in an advisory capacity, just as the private sector was, and with the permission of Council, he would ask for authorization to become a voting member.

Mayor Treece stated he thought that would be difficult to do without amending the legislation that created the Task Force. Mr. Skala commented that he did not believe the legislation had stipulated anything. He thought it was similar to that of the Drinking Water Planning Work Group on which he served. Mayor Treece suggested they obtain more guidance and discuss this at the end of the meeting as he understood there were seven members, and he was not sure they could appoint an eighth voting member.

IV. SCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT

SPC36-19  Susan Franck - Necessary rebellion.

Ms. Franck commented that she lived on Bluff Dale Drive and had been present with and a part of groups that had been expressing dissent in service of a higher principle. In her reading, she had come across something that provided context to this dissent in service of a higher principle that had been entitled *Necessary Rebellion*. While they thought of rebellion as warrior-like, it was really about making oneself vulnerable in a heavily armored world. She noted the act of rebellion was to expose and be exposed in those places that had been kept hidden for too long. Because the rebel chose to speak up with their voice or action against tradition, they risked their life and security of false belonging for the chance of being truly alive, and in doing so, they incited aliveness in others. She stated
there was a pivotal juncture in every journey of a hero or heroine, and when they stood alone, they were led by the depth of their convictions to take a stand, name the unaddressed, and call out of hiding the secret malaise in their community. They arrived at a standpoint, not without doubts, but in spite of them, and there was sometimes a hefty price to pay, such as being the target of criticism or rejection from the group that was at odds with their truth. She commented that the willingness to rebel from the expected norms came from knowing one could not build resentment. She noted resentment that came from the decision to go against one’s truth embittered the self and somatized in the body taken on the burden of pain. She stated the whistleblower, however, revealed a shared complicity as more was expected from oneself and others. In that stance, the pain would become communal. She explained the dissenting voice spoke for the voiceless, and in some ironic plot twist, it was in the revolt against the outdated belonging that real solidarity was born. She commented that one’s willingness to speak the truth about something one disagreed with was what allowed the undamming of communication, giving all involved a fertile place to grow and a chance to build a real village. She noted rebellion was the pushback on that longstanding amnesia, and it wanted to see what was really enduring when all else was stripped away and the longing that would pound through their lives if undammed, bringing life to the dryness of the overharvested creek bed within themselves. She wondered if they could withstand the trials of exile if they had the chance of turning that story into something that showed others they were not alone. She commented that rebellion could make them feel ostracized from the group, turning them into the black sheep of the family or community, but she believed the black sheep were the artists, visionaries, and healers of the culture as they were willing to call into question those places that felt stale, obsolete, or without integrity. Their being different served to bring the family or group to consciousness. She stated the world needed the rebellion and felt everyone needed to find medicine to heal all that had been kept from the world. She also felt they need to find the place within where things that had been muted to give that a voice. She did not believe truth could find its way forward until those things were spoken. She noted the world needed disagreements, exclusions, and aches to tear false construction down in order to find the world behind it.

SPC37-19 Sandra Warren - Trail being constructed at the end of Bluff Dale Drive.

Ms. Warren, 709 Bluff Dale Drive, commented that she was a single mother of six and noted she had moved from McBaine Avenue to Bluff Dale Drive so her kids could feel safe. She did not feel the proposed bike trail would make the Bluff Dale Drive area a better place or safe for her kids. She understood a rapist had been on campus two years ago, and the trail would be connected to campus. She stated she had five girls and would now have to worry about her kids again after moving to Bluff Dale Drive in order to not have to worry about her kids. She commented that she did not feel this was fair and pointed out no one had asked the citizens of Bluff Dale Drive how they felt about the bike trail. She explained she believed it would bring more crime to the area. Currently, she allowed her kids to walk there themselves without worrying about it, and did not want that worry. She was concerned about the type and number of people that would use the trail. She stated she did not believe she would feel safe in her own home and did not want to live like that. She reiterated she had moved so she did not have to live like that. She commented that she wanted the best for her kids and asked the Council to think about the safety of kids. She also provided a handout of signatures of residents in the Bluff Dale Drive area opposed to the trail.

SPC38-19 Christopher Foss, Lisa Gilmore - Proposed bike trail connecting East Campus to Stephens Lake Park through Bluff Dale Drive.

Mr. Foss introduced his family, Lisa, Jude, and Juliet, and noted they had moved to the Bluff Dale Drive neighborhood last year. He stated he had experience in firefighting, drove for Student Transportation of America, and had worked in the construction industry for
years for the federal government and various states. He stated he agreed with the safety concerns of bridging two parts of the City together. He commented that this would bring a number of hazards other than just crime. He noted there had been a very small concrete project at the corner of Bluff Dale Drive where it turned to head south due to a hole in the ground a couple of feet wide that had stretched across the road about fifteen feet, and this work had blocked the road for weeks. As a school bus driver and firefighter, he felt that posed a few hazards. He commented that they had to move all of the children in the network of neighborhoods to Old 63 and people tended to speed by while the children stood there. He believed the trail construction would create this same issue. He noted there had been a massive house fire on a nearby street within the last couple of weeks, and it had clogged the streets. He felt any incident while there was a major construction project underway would pose a number of hazards to human life, structures, etc. As a school bus driver, this project would require the rerouting of everything to the highway. He believed automobile, bicycle, and pedestrian accidents would increase due to the tightness of these streets and because there were not sidewalks. He stated this was not a “not in my backyard” situation and suggested it be rerouted outside of the neighborhood. He explained they had moved to that neighborhood because it was a quiet neighborhood without much traffic allowing the kids to be out together in the streets. He asked the Council to take these items into consideration.

SPC39-19
Carol Brown - Race Matters, Friends (RMF) community bail fund.

Ms. Brown, 903 S. Greenwood Avenue, explained they had started working in March in terms of bailing people out, and through this date in mid-June, they had bailed out twenty people at a cost of $16,000. These people did not have $16,000, and it was money they would have had to go into debt to pay. Since they were able to get out of jail, they would not have to show up in court in shackles and black and white striped pajamas, which was demoralizing. In addition, they could back to their jobs, pay their bills, and be self-sustaining members of the community if they were not unsheltered. She noted they had dealt with under-sheltered people being arrested for an old warrant, which had then caused their car to be towed so they were completely unsheltered if they had been living in that car. She commented that what they were seeing was pervasive throughout the community. The racism and economic divisions were fairly drastic. She stated a lot of the offenses that ended up in court were traffic offenses. Columbia did not have a functioning transportation system so people drove their cars regardless of whether they were insured, registered, etc. They did not have the money to get to work and pay rent, so they were not unsheltered or living in their car. She commented that transportation was a big deal and they needed to fully fund a functional transportation system that operated seven days a week since people worked on Saturdays and Sundays and in the evenings. She noted affordable housing along with segregated housing and neighborhoods was another issue. She explained there was a need to integrate affordable housing into every neighborhood in the community. This meant real inclusionary zoning, and not a situation with wealthy houses in one area and poor houses in another area. She pointed out how the lack integrated affordable housing affected the School District as well since it created some high poverty schools and some not-so-high poverty schools. She thought it was easy to guess which kids would do better. She noted it also created a racial disparity. Wealthier schools would be predominately white and this would be reflected in the policies and administrations of those schools in terms of how they dealt with children in those schools. She stated it was all a web and interconnected. She commented that there were 500 people on the wait-list at the Columbia Housing Authority, and that wait-list was closed whereby they would not take any additional people. She noted people could not afford to live in Columbia. They were living in vehicles, at parks, on the trails, etc. While the bail fund assisted some, it did not resolve everything. She asked the Council to consider that when they reviewed and adopted policies.
Mr. McLaurin, 1807 Jackson Street, commented that at the prior council meeting, they had heard testimony from Ms. Barnes concerning her daughter’s experience with the Columbia Public School System. He agreed with Ms. Brown, the prior speaker, in that all of these things were connected in terms of a public policy perspective. In his review of the education system, there were so many problems in terms of not coordinating efforts. He noted he specifically wanted to discuss the practice of the Columbia Police Department following the recommendations of the authorities at the schools indicating a certain kid needed to be taken into custody as he did not see any checks and balances in that process, which was concerning. When bringing the power of the Police Department against the citizens of Columbia, and especially minors, he believed they needed to be safer than their current practice. He felt that required an ongoing conversation between the Police Department and the Columbia Public School System. He believed community oriented policing needed to extend into the schools as well. Currently, the Columbia Public School System had a zero tolerance policy, which was too heavy handed for children. He asked the Council to begin a dialogue via a task force or another method to ensure kids were safe and not being exploited by bad policy or a couple of bad decisions in the process. He also felt this might be an appropriate item for review via a performance audit. He understood a performance audit would cost less than one percent than the annual budget and felt it should be thought of as an investment to ensure City assets and resources were not unnecessarily harming anyone and that the money was being spent wisely. It would then allow them to review policy and procedures for corrections to be made. He asked the Council to press forward on some kind of accountability, whether an audit, which was his preference, or opening up a dialogue between the Columbia Police Department, the City Council, and the Columbia Public School Board. He thought it might be best to do this during the summer lull. He commented that he would hate to see any additional kids unnecessarily traumatized by some of the practices and missteps he had heard about and had witnessed.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

PH27-19 Consider the FY 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Annual Action Plan.

See discussion with R99-19.

R99-19 Approving the FY 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Annual Action Plan.

PH27-19 and R99-19 were read by the Clerk.

Mr. Cole provided a staff report.

Mayor Treece opened the public hearing.

Steven A. Smith, 1603 Canton Drive, explained he was the President and CEO of Job Point with offices at 400 Wilkes Boulevard, and stated he would speak on the reallocation of funds to the 7 and 9 Third Avenue projects. He noted the costs had increased significantly over the last year and one-half and the City’s down payment assistance rules had changed since they had signed the contracts for those homes. He explained they were requesting $15,000 more per house, which was slightly less than what they were receiving for 700 Oak Street and less than the projection for the Eighth Avenue homes. He stated they had cut costs and were absorbing some costs. He noted they were not passing all of the costs onto the City. He pointed out they were maintaining the price point to the buyers, and would do carports instead of garages. He noted they would also take $5,000 less for the labor the students would provide. He hoped the Council would deem that acceptable based on their past stewardship of funds.
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There being no further comment, Mayor Treece closed the public hearing.

The vote on R99-19 was recorded as follows: VOTING YES: TREECE, RUFFIN, TRAPP, SKALA, THOMAS, PITZER, PETERS. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Resolution declared adopted, reading as follows:

PH28-19 Proposed construction of the Hinkson Creek Trail improvement project, from Stephens Lake Park to Clark Lane.

See discussion with B155-19.

B155-19 Authorizing construction of the Hinkson Creek Trail improvement project, from Stephens Lake Park to Clark Lane; authorizing the Purchasing Division to issue a contract for a portion of the work utilizing a duly authorized term and supply contractor; authorizing an agreement for professional engineering services with Crockett Engineering Consultants, L.L.C. for structural and civil engineering services.

PH28-19 was read by the Clerk and B155-19 was given second reading by the Clerk.

Mr. Griggs provided a staff report.

Mayor Treece opened the public hearing.

Christine Doerr commented that a neighbor had felt that the best way to keep the footbridge from eroding was to throw yard waste on the west edge of the bridge. She suggested someone advise them of the inappropriateness of that. She stated she could not wait to ride her bike to Steak 'n Shake and the other places near there.

Annette Triplett, 201 W. Broadway, explained she was the CEO of the PedNet Coalition and noted she was speaking in favor of the Hinkson Creek Trail extension on behalf of their 7,600 members, including 35 businesses and organizations. She stated the PedNet Coalition strongly supported this trail extension as it was a critical component of the City’s Trail Master Plan and was a segment of the 30 mile loop backbone of the trail system. The extension was extremely valuable as it would open up access to the trail system to communities north of I-70. Those communities had long had fewer opportunities to access the trail system, and I-70 was a major barrier to traveling by walking or biking. She noted the proposed Hinkson Creek Trail extension would overcome those barriers by connecting the trails in the central part of the community to the northern neighborhoods and creating trail access under I-70. She commented that this particular segment of the Hinkson Creek Trail would also provide access to the Conley Business District, which further increased the value of the trail system by creating connections to popular destinations, such as shops, restaurants, and grocery stores. The Hinkson Creek Trail from Stephens Lake Park to Clark Lane was an ideal combination of a park and trail facility for recreation and enjoyment along with transportation to access valuable community resources. She pointed out the trail had also been included on the project list for the 2015 park sales tax ballot, which the voters overwhelming approved. She asked the Council to vote in favor of the trail to honor the clear voice of the people to continue to build out the trail system and strengthen quality of life, economic resilience, social equity, health, and environmental sustainability.

Traci Wilson-Kleekamp stated she was the President of Race Matters, Friends, and noted she supported the Hinkson Creek Trail. In her neighborhood, the trail began at the end of the block so there were constant bike riders and walkers, and she had never feared for her safety. She explained they had more activity when people left their cars unlocked, but did not feel that was unusual, and noted it usually occurred in the summer. She commented that she thought they did a better job with trails than public transportation, which she felt was disappointing. She stated she liked the idea that they were connecting neighborhoods and was sad for those that felt uncomfortable with unknown people and others coming to their neighborhood as they all shared the planet. She thought they needed to work past that xenophobia of someone different coming to
their neighborhood. She reiterated that it was strange that they did so much better with parks and trails than public transportation, and pointed out they really needed functioning and thriving public transportation.

There being no further comment, Mayor Treece closed the public hearing.

Mayor Treece asked Mr. Griggs when they expected to get started. Mr. Griggs replied they would start right away after executing the contract to start on the bridge work.

Mr. Skala commented that he heartedly supported this trail extension for the north side of town. It was closer to the business end of the trail system, and was a missing link. He stated he was sensitive to those that resided on Walnut Street and believed they could be accommodated. In reference to Ms. Wilson-Kleekamp’s comment with regard to transit, he felt the dedicated sales tax was one of the reasons they were doing better with trails than transit. He reiterated he heartedly supported this project as it was vital to the trail system.

B155-19 was given third reading with the vote recorded as follows VOTING YES: TREECE, RUFFIN, TRAPP, SKALA, THOMAS, PITZER, PETERS. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Bill declared enacted, reading as follows:

VI. OLD BUSINESS

PR88-19 Establishing a policy to guide the internal audit function; adopting an internal audit charter.

The policy resolution was read by the Clerk.

Ms. Bryce provided a staff report.

Mr. Pitzer asked if the internal audit charter was a standard charter for this type of situation. Ms. Bryce replied yes and explained she had actually used guidance from the Institute of Internal Auditors. Mr. Pitzer understood it indicated the City Manager with input from the City Council would approve the charter, and asked if that would happen once or if it was updated or reviewed annually. Ms. Bryce replied it should be reviewed, but not necessarily on any specific time frame. She suggested it be done based on changes, such as growth of the department, a different reporting structure, or the need to add more items. She reiterated it should be reviewed as needed.

Mr. Pitzer understood the City Manager had already approved this initial version. Mr. Glascock stated wanted to ensure the Council could see it signed, but if they had issues, it could be changed.

Mr. Pitzer asked if the policy resolution and charter would be posted publicly. Ms. Bryce replied it could be. She explained they now had an internal audit webpage and they could place a link to the charter and policy resolution on there. Mr. Pitzer asked if there was an avenue for the public to provide input on raising issues they felt needed to be reviewed. Ms. Bryce replied there was an internal audit email address and anyone was welcomed to provide feedback, thoughts, or opinions. She noted everything would continue to go through the cycle in the way it was now set up, i.e. the internal auditor reporting to the City Manager.

Mayor Treece asked Ms. Bryce if she had any concerns about preserving the Internal Auditor’s independence from the City Manager under the current governance structure. He explained he was referring specifically to the resource allocation reporting requirements as it gave the City Manager the authority to reassign internal audit resources to any matters that came to the attention of the City Manager. He thought the City Manager had already had that through the current budgeting structure. He commented that while he did not fear this City Manager doing that, he felt a more heavy-handed City Manager that did not want someone looking into certain areas could pull some resources away or wait twelve months before releasing bad information. He asked how the Internal Auditor would preserve their independence or ability to communicate directly with the Council beyond their own professional ethics. Ms. Bryce replied they had added a stipulation allowing the Internal Auditor to go to the City
Counselor if there was an issue of that nature, and it could be brought forward to the Council via that method. She emphasized that ethics were a big issue. Mayor Treece understood they would be relying on the City Counselor’s professional ethics to bring it to their attention. Ms. Bryce stated that was correct and explained the person in the position of Internal Auditor had to have that ethical background. She noted the way she had read the reallocation of resources was more to a different audit need as opposed to a completely operational need because other safeguards had been included in the charter and policy resolution.

Mayor Treece understood there would typically be a management response to the recommendations of the Internal Auditor that Council would receive, and asked for the next step if the Council felt the problem needed to be addressed and that those recommendations needed to be implemented. Ms. Bryce replied the Council could provide direction to the City Manager and the Internal Auditor could write a follow-up addition to the report indicating the additional direction received and what management would now do. Mayor Treece understood the follow-up would address whether that action had been taken. Ms. Bryce replied yes.

Mr. Skala commented that he was a little uncomfortable with the lack of perceived independence with the Internal Auditor reporting directly to the City Manager, but understood that was the way it had to be due to Columbia’s system of government. He thought a solution for the future would be to amend the City Charter, but it would then be opened up to other amendments. He understood Ms. Bryce saw the role of the Internal Auditor at a performance audit capacity. Ms. Bryce stated that was correct. Mr. Skala felt that could obviate the need for a total comprehensive audit as he understood there was some discussion in the public for a state audit. He asked Ms. Bryce if she was confident the capacity she had was sufficient for their needs. Ms. Bryce replied she thought the Internal Audit Department should be a little larger for a City of this size as it was a lot to take on for one person. She thought 2-3 extremely competent people were needed for the level she envisioned as the desire of Council.

Mr. Skala explained he was relatively comfortable with the provisions included with respect to access to the City Counselor for independence. He also noted he was a little wary of inviting the State to deal with some of these issues. He reiterated a potential solution was for the Internal Auditor to report to the City Council as an employee. Ms. Bryce stated she thought that would be a better reporting relationship.

Traci Wilson-Kleekamp commented that she concurred with the statement of Ms. Bryce in that she needed staff to fit the growth they had in Columbia. She also did not believe they should be so afraid of the State and was not sure she understood that concern. She reiterated she felt they needed an Internal Auditor staff that could meet the needs of the City as the public had a lot of questions, and the sooner there were responses to the questions, the better.

Mr. Skala asked Ms. Wilson-Kleekamp if she had heard any conversation about the potential for political influence in terms of a State Auditor. Ms. Wilson-Kleekamp replied the State Auditor conducted audits for communities all over the State. Mr. Skala asked if she had heard that conversation and noted he had heard of the potential of the State Auditor running for further office. Ms. Wilson-Kleekamp replied she believed they lived in a time of a lot of fearmongering, and what mattered was the data that resulted from the review and whether cities were helped to do better by her work.

Mr. Pitzer made a motion to amend PR88-19 by replacing “employment with the City of Columbia” with “the position” in Section 1, subsection C, item 4 so it read “In the event the Internal Auditor leaves the position, the City Manager will report such departure to the City Council as soon as is practical and inform the City Council of the basis for the departure.” The motion was seconded by Mr. Trapp and approved unanimously by voice vote.
Mr. Trapp commented that he thought this was a good next step.
Mayor Treece stated he did not believe it was the last step, but felt it was the next step.
Mr. Pitzer commented that he agreed. He noted this function had operated without any Council oversight, input, or policy guidance for a long time. In addition, the position had been vacant for a long time. He stated it was a good first step.

The vote on PR88-19, as amended, was recorded as follows: VOTING YES: TREECE, RUFFIN, TRAPP, SKALA, THOMAS, PITZER, PETERS. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Policy resolution declared adopted, reading as follows:

PR89-19 Adopting the “Climate Action and Adaptation Plan” for the City of Columbia.

The policy resolution was read by the Clerk.
Ms. Buffaloe provided a staff report.
Jay Hasheider, Chair of the Mayor’s Task Force on Climate Action and Adaptation Planning, asked the members of the Task Force in attendance to stand in recognition of their work and explained that collectively that group had spent over 1,000 hours in public meetings and easily another 1,000 hours in reading, thinking, and talking about what this plan should have in it. He explained they had been aided by staff, the consultant, and more than 2,000 citizens that had attended their public events and/or had participated in the online surveys. He stated they appreciated Council’s confidence in them and the opportunity to serve during this critical time in the City’s history. This Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) was their best effort and they hoped the Council would accept it tonight. He noted Ms. Buffaloe had described the process, and the plan had been completed in a compressed period of time. The reason it was turned around so quickly was because the topic was that urgent. He commented that climate change was upon them, and the longer they waited to stop contributing to it, the worse the problem would become. They were already experiencing floods and catastrophic weather that would only deepen over time. He did not believe climate change could be ignored or would go away, and he did not feel they were well served by those that asked them to follow a path of denial or doubt. He stated it was with great relief to see Columbia, a community which had long been known to place value on education, science, and forward-thinking ideas, taking this step forward tonight to protect its citizens from the perils that were inherent in their climate changed future. He commented that the plan was essentially a climate preparedness plan because it prepared the City for the upcoming threats to the infrastructure, their health, and the health of their natural resources while simultaneously preparing the economy to become independent and free from the need to produce greenhouse gases. It was difficult, if not impossible, to imagine how they could effectively prepare for climate change without eliminating their annual contributions to it. As mentioned by Ms. Buffaloe, approximately 2.3 million tons of carbon dioxide were produced every year, and this plan would reduce that to zero net tons of carbon dioxide by the year 2060. He stated he hoped someone would throw a big party when that occurred. He commented that the plan had drawn on the talents and dedication of City staff to help lead them in this transition to a sustainable economy, and calling for City operations to lead the way would be critical to their success. He noted many staff members had already contributed with valuable ideas that were integrated into the plan. He commented that they hoped the new City Manager would be aware of the CAAP, understand it, and was in agreement with the goals set should the plan be adopted tonight. He explained the CAAP included 150 actionable items, which were divided into six sectors, and they were all directed at achieving the bold and transformative goal that had been set last August. He pointed out each action item had been reviewed to ensure it was effective, technically achievable, affordable, and enhanced the community equity. He stated the CAAP did not mandate the implementation of any action by anyone and did not levy any cost on anyone in the public or private sector. Any expenditures or mandates would have to be considered by Council in the future, and would likely have to
be passed in the form of an ordinance. He reiterated no one would be impacted by the action of Council tonight. He commented that the CAAP promoted much being done through awareness, education, incentives, recognition, and leadership by example instead of penalties and mandates. He stated this had been their best effort with regard to creating a path that Columbia could take to achieve the goals set, and if implemented, it would make Columbia more resilient to climate change and remove their dependence on carbon dioxide producing fuels. He urged the Council to vote for its acceptance. In addition to approving this policy resolution tonight, he noted the Task Force was asking the Council to take steps toward establishing a standing commission on climate change to help guide the implementation and evolution of the plan going forward.

Ms. Peters commented that the City already had an Environment and Energy Commission (EEC) and asked Mr. Hasheider if he thought that would be a good commission to continue this work or if the recommendation was to have a separate commission. Mr. Hasheider replied the Task Force had not discussed the nuances of how to create the climate commission they had recommended. He personally thought the EEC was well suited to work in the area, but believed there would be some difficulty in that it was partially populated by representatives of Boone County. He felt it might prove difficult for the City to be taking guidance from people that did not necessarily live within the City. He thought there might be some complications that would need to be addressed.

John Martin, 400 Longfellow Lane, stated he was a resident and business owner and asked the Council to give pause to this recommendation to reduce emissions to zero. He commented that an article in the Columbia Daily Tribune had spoken on the reliance of data from the United Nations, and thought it was sad to base recommendations on the United Nations as he did not believe foreign leaders should dictate what they were doing in the United States. He understood the United Nations had indicated that in eleven years the damage would be irreversible and believed they kept moving those warnings back every year, which he felt was very convenient. He also understood many cities had adopted the Paris Accord when they were in disarray due to policies allowing crime and poverty to be rampant, and provided Chicago and Los Angeles as examples. He stated some global warming data had been proven to be manipulated data to meet a political agenda of more government control. Some of the data had come from computer models that had not had a historical and lengthy basis. He noted some had indicated this would increase energy costs by up to 17 percent. He understood some hoped another gas station would not be built in Columbia, and pointed out that energy was the foundation for the strong economy and their jobs. It was how they traveled, did business, thrived, etc. He commented that the CAAP contradicted some portions of the Unified Development Code (UDC) and incentives meant more taxes. He noted 34 percent of the City’s energy currently came from coal, a natural resource that provided efficient energy, and he believed that was a good policy.

Jim Meyer, 104 Sea Eagle Drive, commented that the purpose of local government was to be a limited government respecting the individual liberties of its citizens under the rule of law. He thought the City should focus on infrastructure and public safety services. He did not believe the purpose of local government was to engage in flights of utopian fantasy or authoritarianism that always resulted from such thinking. He pointed out the climate modeling that had been used in this study did not match the actual experience. Actual observations from 2000 to 2015 in peer reviewed research were in the lower range of the model results whereas the predictions used in this study were in the upper half of the temperature range. As a result the report was based on unfounded speculation and was refuted by the actual empirical data. He referred to strategy H-1 and felt there was a perceived lack of energy efficiency that would create some regulatory goals. He did not believe the perception of a lack of efficiency was a sufficient reason to invade the fundamental right of a landlord to derive income from property. He commented that they should not be prevented from renting their property because someone did not feel it was
energy efficient enough. He understood strategy H-2 included an item related to disclosing the energy uses of buildings. He pointed out the tenants often paid for the energy so the landlord or owner of the building did not necessarily have access to that data. In addition, the energy use of a building would vary greatly with the tenant mix in the building. A retail store and restaurant were very different uses that would create very different energy signatures. The building structure or design was not necessarily the predominant factor in such a situation. In that same section, there was a goal of increasing the use of electricity and electrical appliances, which did not necessarily support reducing emissions because only a tiny fraction of electricity was generated by renewable sources. As a result, it was not clear that incentivizing additional electric appliances would result in a greenhouse gas emissions reduction. He commented that there was no evidence that it was unsafe to build in 500-year floodplains, a strategy H-2 contended. Restricting the development potential of 500-year floodplains would excessively burden property owners and their rights as well as increase the cost of building and development in Columbia.

Emily Piontek explained she resided on Again Street and was representing the League of Women Voters in Columbia with 150 local members, Mid-Missouri Peaceworks with 6,000 local members and supporters, the Missouri Coalition for the Environment with about 40 local members, the Osage Group of the Sierra Club with about 6,200 local members and supporters, and Renew Missouri with 1,300 local supporters in support of the CAAP. She asked everyone in the room that supported the approval of the CAAP to stand or raise their hand, and approximately 40 people expressed support. In addition to the supporters in the room tonight, three organizations had collected signatures of support from additional members of the community. She noted she had 488 signed statements expressing individual support for the CAAP along with personal pledges to take responsibility and direct action in lowering individual carbon footprints. She stated actions included items such as making their homes more energy efficient, reducing their transportation energy usage, gardening, purchasing local food, minimizing consumption and waste, and supporting the installation of renewable energy and renewable energy development. As had been indicated by Mr. Hasheider, climate change was accelerating faster than had been previously understood and the aggregation of climate change data was alarming and a clear call for swift action on a local level. She commented that they were experiencing the damaging effects of global warming currently, and as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported, temperatures were expected to rise incrementally and with disastrous consequences for the community and country. At the current rate of change, global warming would reach 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels around 2030 and 2052. She believed the City of Columbia needed to establish a vision to prevent this imminent threat, and that vision was imbedded in the CAAP. Some critics of the CAAP had raised concerns about higher costs, but that was far from certain as renewable energy costs continued to drop rapidly. She stated the International Renewable Energy Agency, which was an intergovernmental body, had predicted that renewable energy costs would be consistently cheaper than fossil fuels by 2050. A new report of renewable power generation costs in 2018 had indicated the global weighted cost of electricity from solar and wind had dropped an additional 13 percent from last year alone, and the Agency believed these trends would likely continue, particularly for onshore wind and solar, both of which Columbia was likely to use. She commented that all of the organizations she was representing this evening had pledged to assist in the ongoing efforts to implement the Columbia CAAP. They understood that creating this roadmap was only a first step and strongly supported the creation of a citizen climate commission to maintain timely focus on moving forward as rapidly as possible with the proposed plans. She explained the CAAP would guide them in their work together to make Columbia carbon neutral by the mid-century and to prepare for the climate fueled changes underway. She pointed out most of the actions taken to address climate change also resulted in co-benefits, such as lower costs, a more resilient energy grid,
locally produced and healthier foods, and lower utility bills due to energy efficiency improvements and cleaner air. She asked the Council to vote yes on this policy resolution and to adopt the Columbia CAAP.

Mike Zweifel, 520 Sackets Road, commented that although he resided outside of the City limits he received City water, and explained he was speaking in opposition to the current CAAP proposal. He wondered why the CAAP proposal was priority and an urgent issue in Columbia when the data from the most recent citizen survey indicated it was not. The City had released its latest citizen survey in February of this year, and in the survey, the term “climate change” did not appear once. The survey results had listed the top three priorities as the condition of City streets, public safety services, and City water, electric, and sewer services. Since data for the citizen survey and data from the CAAP proposal were collected at nearly the same time, some overlap regarding how important combating climate change was to the citizens of Columbia should have been in the citizen survey. In addition to potentially not adhering to the citizen survey results, the financial impact on Columbia residents was completely unknown, and even the plan itself admitted this. He referred to page 39 and noted “this Plan may be funded by increasing existing revenue sources or creating new ones.” As a result, he believed Columbia residences and businesses should realize City taxes, fees and costs of services would most certainly need to be increased to fund the CAAP. He commented that the wedge analysis on pages 47 and 49 did “not take costs of actions into consideration (i.e., assumes that the City will find and commit funding to the action).” If following the CAAP would be a priority for the City, he wondered where that would leave public safety, road and street conditions, and City water, electric, and sewer services. He explained he had brought up the financial impact of the CAAP because the preamble to the City Charter had included “maintain an economical city manager form of city administration” as a reason to secure the benefits of the Home Rule Charter. He stated the CAAP was not economical because there were many unknown costs that would have to be funded by the citizens of Columbia. He believed the impact of any plan on the residents and businesses of Columbia had to be at the top of the mind of the City Council, department leaders, and all staff. For a host of reasons, he believed the CAAP was too invasive on people’s rights and would be a huge financial burden on the City’s residents and business owners and would hurt the long-term stable growth of Columbia and Boone County. He commented that no one wanted dirty air and water, but did not feel this plan was viable for Columbia and Boone County. There would not be an impact tonight if this passed, but there would be in the future. He asked the Council to reject the CAAP as it was currently proposed.

Annette Triplett, 201 W. Broadway, stated she represented the PedNet Coalition and had the privilege of serving on the Mayor’s Task Force on Climate Action and Adaptation Planning over the last year and one-half. She explained her role on the Task Force had been primarily to provide input on transportation recommendations that would help achieve emission reduction goals set by the CAAP. She noted transportation accounted for 27 percent of Columbia’s greenhouse gas emissions. This high percentage was a result of most people in Columbia traveling around town via a personal motor vehicle. If the City wanted to reduce emissions, they had to work to shift some of these trips from vehicles to walking, biking, and public transit. She pointed out this was also directly related to the mission of the PedNet Coalition. She explained two of the biggest barriers to walking, biking, or riding the bus were safety and convenience. For most people, if they did not feel they had a safe place to walk or bike, they would chose to drive instead. Similarly, for transit, if the process was inconvenient and the trip took too long, people would chose to drive if that was an option for them. The recommendations in the transportation sector of the CAAP primarily worked to address those two barriers of safety and convenience. She commented that the recommendations had also been built on previous policies and priorities set by Council as several specific actions were associated with the complete streets policy adopted by the City in 2004 and Vision Zero engineering improvement projects to create safe streets. She noted the CAAP also built
on the Columbia’s positive momentum in constructing destination trails, such as the Hinkson Creek Trail from Stephens Lake Park to Clark Lane, which the Council had voted on earlier tonight, and from the Grindstone Nature Area to Stephens Lake Park, which was also known as the Shepard to Rollins trail. She reiterated many of the ideas in the CAAP had been built upon the previous good work done by the City, but in many instances the recommendations were more specific than identified in past plans due to the urgency necessary to achieve the City’s emission reduction goals. She emphasized transit as she believed that would be crucial in achieving the goals. Walking and biking could work for many people for short trips, but public transit could work for almost anyone and could move people over longer distances with low emissions. If they were going to be serious about the CAAP and achieving the emission reduction goals, they also had to be serious about prioritizing their transportation funding to the forms of transportation with the lowest emissions. Low impact forms of transportation became more feasible for more people as they adjusted their land use patterns to shorten trips and reduce the need to drive. The types of transportation feasible for each of them were inherently linked to housing and zoning policies, which determined where they could live, work, and access community resources and how far apart each was from the other. She pointed out the transportation sector also provided recommendations on neighborhood density, mixed-use development, and preserving and enhancing affordable housing. In terms of the logistics of implementing the CAAP, she agreed with Mr. Hasheider in his recommendation of the need for a permanent commission. She suggested that if the Council made climate action a philosophical priority by adopting the CAAP, they should also make it a budget priority by providing additional staffing to implement it as existing staff could not realistically implement it in a way that honored the intent of the urgency that had initiated this entire process. She noted the Interim City Manager had indicated the CAAP as one of the most important plans ever developed since he had been with the City at a prior work session and she agreed. She explained the transportation sector recommendations had the real potential to revolutionize transportation in Columbia. They were ambitious, but were also realistic, as they had looked at the data of other cities and had found some cities had already achieved the transportation goals set for Columbia sixteen years from now in 2035. She believed the transportation recommendations were anchored in reality with a vision of what could be created in the future. She asked for the support of Council for the transportation recommendations in the CAAP on behalf of the PedNet Coalition.

Lisa Meyer, 104 Sea Eagle Drive, explained she felt this proposal was disappointing. In addition to the list of concerns that had been outlined by the President of the Columbia Board of Realtors and the Chair of the Boone County Missouri Republicans, she noted she had her own concerns. She commented that she cared deeply about the environment, especially litter as it was unattractive, damaging, and easily found in every part of Columbia. The amount of litter throughout the City was a disgrace and there was nothing in the entire proposal that addressed litter even though litter was not good for the environment. She encouraged the Council to focus on what really mattered to the citizens, which was safety, roads and infrastructure, which included sidewalks, and keeping the streets free of litter. She commented that no one would send their child to walk or bike to school if they did not feel safe. In addition, no one working the late shift would walk or bike if they did not feel safe and the infrastructure was not there to support their needs. She felt they needed to focus on improving infrastructure, which included worn out roads and sidewalks and the lack of sidewalks, especially since the taxes paid by the citizens were so high. She believed the compound effect of prioritizing safety, infrastructure, and litter would be incredibly positive for the community and the environment.

Tom Jensen, 2416 Wild Oak Court, stated he had been a member of the Mayor’s Task Force on Climate Action and Adaptation Planning, and pointed out the Task Force had not undertaken a detailed financial analysis of costs for specific projects due mostly to
rapid rates of reductions in costs and increases in technology performance for energy based products, but noted all recommendations had emerged from a cost conscious perspective rooted in the latest and most up to date understanding of market conditions. In terms of the big picture, the vast majority of the work of the Task Force relative to carbon addressing climate impact would come from activities originating with the Utility Department. Due to cost trends, he believed it was a virtual certainty that recommendations made in the CAAP would continue to diminish in cost going forward and would be more cost-effective than the current strategy of the Utility Department that was dominated by the reliance on fossil fuels and outdated legacy technologies. He noted this conclusion was supported in data published by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), who earlier this month had reported that in the first time in history the nation’s renewable energy capacity had exceeded the nation’s coal energy capacity by 21.56 percent to 21.55 percent. FERC had also reported that capacity registrations through the next three years had shown the growth of coal to be .00000425 percent of clean energy growth, which was about 17 megawatts versus 40 gigawatts. During the same three year period, 13 gigawatts of coal were registered to be retired, and this would further widen the capacity gulf between renewable energy and coal. He stated the driver of this trend was cost, and that boded well for Columbia’s commitment to the CAAP recommendations. While there was a myriad of data-driven factors, two were worth mentioning in his opinion. The majority of registered utility-scale clean energy developments in the next three years would take place after the renewable energy tax credit began its cycle of reduction demonstrating its ability to be competitive without subsidies. In addition, coal plant operators attempting to dodge environmental remediation costs had recently been rebuffed in bankruptcy courts, which served as an ominous sign for Columbia’s expected fossil fuel related costs increasing at a precipitous rate. He explained the City could facilitate change by creating incentives for energy efficiency improvements and with rate design strategies, and that would reduce the costs of the utility by enhancing the ability to comply with regulatory requirements along with its reliance on the most expensive peaked produced energy. Those saving would be passed on to the ratepayers. In addition to those measures, he noted climate bonds were among the fastest growing public debt instruments issued in the world with a projected $100 trillion market capacity. He stated current trends held rates for this instrument pari-passu with other debt issued by the same issuer so the City would not have to pay more money on that kind of debt and climate bonds to realize some of these advances. In addition, rates were expected to decrease with demand increase from portfolio managers looking to invest to support climate solutions.

Mayor Treece asked if there were other instruments that captured the long-term savings they would potentially see in 2030, 2050, or 2060. He wondered if the goals were contemplated on that. Mr. Jensen replied securitization instruments were becoming more prominent, and they would help utilities like Columbia Water and Light to get out earlier from long-term fossil fuel contracts. He explained an inflection point would be identified whereby it would be more financially advantageous for the utility to retire the old commitments. He commented that everything they were trying to accomplish was driven by costs first.

Mayor Treece commented that he had looked at the utilities in Springfield, Missouri, and understood they routinely closed their power plant for 30 days once a year for maintenance and cleaning, and in that month, they had made an extra $800,000. Mr. Jensen stated everyday there were reports of coal plants operating in the red and seeking legislative help with subsidies. He noted the legislature in Ohio for a private utility had decided not to assist as they felt it was corporate welfare.

Mayor Treece understood Mr. Jensen was on the Integrated Electric Resource and Master Plan Task Force and hoped he looked at Columbia’s future energy needs through that lens. Mr. Jensen pointed out Mr. Hasheider was leading that Task Force and there had been very good rapport and communication with this Task Force as everyone
recognized the goals of each had to move forward in lockstep.

Mr. Skala asked Mr. Jensen to comment about the calcification of the mindset of the utility from asset-based to an investment and distributed energy-type of system. Mr. Jensen replied he could not speak in detail about the work of the Task Force relative to the RFP process as it was still ongoing, but as a part of that process, they had worked closely with staff and it was very clear everything was being designed with a dramatic shift toward an energy transition. He noted the ideas shared had been enthusiastically received by staff. He thought staff recognized this was an opportunity to see change with regard to how they approached their job on a day to day basis. He agreed it would take a philosophical change from a local asset-based perspective, and might involve local generation as that enhanced resiliency, reduced regulatory compliance costs, and allowed them to maintain a higher quality of energy. He believed staff was open to all of these ideas.

Lynelle Phillips-Westgate, 800 S. Johnmeyer Lane, stated she was representing the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments and the Board of Health as she was a member. She understood the Council had received a letter from the Board of Health unanimously supporting the CAAP and wanted to verbally punctuate that fact. She noted she had also participated in meetings of the Mayor’s Task Force on Climate Action and Adaptation Planning, and appreciated that experience. She explained she had been struck by the attention to equity along with the difficulties of living in poverty and incorporating that into a lot of the strategies found in the CAAP. She stated she also wanted to compliment the Council for embracing this long-term effort. She noted she would be 92 years old in 2060 and pointed out this plan was for their children and their children’s children. She commented that humans were notoriously bad at long-term thinking so she reiterated her appreciation of the Council embracing the idea of doing something that would come to fruition in 2060. She pointed out the CAAP had started with a vulnerability assessment of four areas, and Columbia was the most vulnerable in terms of health and safety, which was why the Board of Health was so concerned and engaged with how the CAAP would come to fruition. She asked that as the Council moved forward in forming any commission that they include public health representatives because they were invested in the results. She urged the Council to support the CAAP.

Dick Parker, 215 Sexton Road, thanked this and prior Councils for allowing Columbia to be a leader in this area for the last decade. He believed Columbia had lost its leadership position over the last couple of years in some related areas, but felt the home performance with energy star had a higher participation rate of customers than any other utility in the country. In the next two years, he hoped the City would continue the program and bring them to the front of all regional cities. He thanked the Council for their effort in this area.

Mr. Skala thanked Mr. Parker for his long service on the Water and Light Advisory Board and his continuing service on the Environment and Energy Commission.

Sarah Klaassen, 108 Ripley Street, stated she was the Pastor of Rock Bridge Christian Church, 301 W. Green Meadows Road, and commented that concerns around a changing climate had presented them with great environmental and social challenges which had already been outlined tonight and in the CAAP. These concerns presented them with pressing existential questions, including the question of what it meant to be human, which invited a morale reflection. The common narrative of decades past indicated they were individuals with dominion over creation and consumers driven by productivity and profit whereby the cost-benefit analysis was the primary locus for public decision-making. They, as humans, had labored far too long under these limited understandings of who they were, and it was those understandings that had helped contribute to the environmental catastrophes that were growing year by year. In addition to the strategies and plans that had been outlined in the CAAP, she believed they also needed to adjust their moral framework. She commented that human beings were not only individuals with dominion over and the ability to make free decisions or consumers to
make a profit, but they belonged to something more as each one of them was connected to life and all of creation. They belonged to one another and Earth, and some would say they also belonged to God. She reiterated everything was connected. She stated the idea of what it meant to be human called them to their proper place in creation and their work, and the CAAP was a small recognition of this work and way of being. She commented that she spoke with gratitude tonight to those that brought the CAAP forward and encouraged its adoption. She explained a member of her congregation had encouraged her to speak tonight because their worship services at the church this spring had considered the realities of climate change and how that was affected by their human relationship with creation. During their worship services, one of the refrains was a reminder that their lives were deeply intertwined with all of creation. Even in the Council Chamber where budgets and policies determined the agenda, she thought they could remember that their lives were deeply intertwined with all of creation.

Hank Ottinger, 511 Westwood Avenue, commented that he was an unabashed and unapologetic tree-hugging environmentalist and noted he supported the CAAP, which he suggested the Council pass. He told of a frog in a pot whereby the frog was as happy as could be when the water was beginning to warm up, but eventually died when the water became too hot. He also spoke of a lily pad on day one and the lily pads doubling every day for 30 days and explained on day 29 the pond would only be half full since on day 30 it would be completely full of lily pads. He believed they were at day 28.5 and noted they were facing an unprecedented urgency in terms of climate change. He recommended it be called global heating instead of climate change. He stated all of the reports had indicated they had thought it would occur now, but it was in fact happening a lot faster than anticipated. He provided the arctic ice and the coral reefs as examples of things that were deteriorating far faster than had been initially anticipated. He commented that they thought globally, but acted locally. He felt there was not much action at the federal level, and if there was any action, he believed it was negative action. In addition, there was nothing going on at the state level. As a result, they needed to do something at the local level. He stated Columbia had been a leader in the State of Missouri for a long time, and referred to the wastewater treatment system, the trail system, energy conservation programs, etc. He believed Columbia needed to maintain that leadership position by pushing the CAAP forward. He commented that by investing in many of the propositions of the CAAP now, it would save them in the long term. He asked the Council to adopt the CAAP for his recently born great grandson.

Robert Blake, 2322 Meadow Lark Lane, explained he was a retired family physician and in recent years, the medical and public health communities had focused increasing attention on harmful health effects of climate change. An article in the May 30, 2019, New England Journal of Medicine had called climate change the greatest public health emergency of their time. Climate change endangered health in many ways, such as facilitating the spread of infectious diseases, producing more frequent and longer heatwaves, generating more frequent and more severe extreme weather events, like hurricanes, wildfires, flooding, and droughts, threatening food production, and depleting and contaminating water supplies. In Mid-Missouri and other locations in the Midwest, they were again suffering from severe flooding. Over the last 26 years, they had experienced two 500-year floods and one 100-year flood. The statistical possibility of this occurring by chance was infinitesimal. He commented that the dangers of extreme weather events to life and physical well-being were obvious, and those catastrophes took a huge toll on mental health. He noted 200,000 children had been displaced due to Hurricane Katrina, and a recent study had found 50 percent of the pre-school aged children and 71 percent of the middle school aged children had met criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder. He pointed out that now, in Mid-Missouri, they had children that were displaced due to flooding. He commented that they tended to think of the elderly and people with chronic health conditions as being particularly susceptible to the infectious diseases and other threats to health posed by climate change, which was
true, but explained the article in the *New England Journal of Medicine* had also documented the many ways climate change negatively impacted fetuses, infants, children, and adolescents. He stated their response to the existential crisis of climate change required action at the global, national, state, and local levels and the actions and policies recommended in the CAAP were an important step in the right direction. He urged the Council to accept the CAAP.

Dean Andersen, 814 Timbers Court, stated his degree was in wildlife, ecology, and conservation and noted he had grown up in the 1960s when many of their lakes were dying from acid rain, a lot of cities were choking in smog, and the bald eagle was in danger due to dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT). Luckily, during the Nixon Administration, the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Clean Land Acts were established, and many of those problems had corrected themselves to the point it was not unusual to see a bald eagle now. He believed they owed the privileges of being able to swim in the Great Lakes in relatively clean water and of not having rivers catch on fire largely to the policies that were passed in the 1960s. He commented that they were now facing similar dire environmental crises that required action to ensure the populations behind them could enjoy the quality of life they had enjoyed. He hoped Columbia would take the steps as a community to be leaders in the necessary policies and changes to ensure they had something to share with the generations behind them. He stated he supported the CAAP and hoped the Council would as well.

Christine Doerr, 2510 Brookside Court, read a statement from her daughter, who was 24 years old, which had indicated that when she was 12 years old, she had learned the term greenhouse gas and that certain gases and parts of the atmosphere were especially good at insulating heat around the Earth, creating a greenhouse effect. She understood that, in excess, the gases could dramatically alter Earth’s climate and affect life on the planet. This had concerned and inspired her to ask more questions and the more she learned the more questions she had. Her concern had ultimately led her to study climate policy and environmental engineering at Stanford University and to travel around the globe to learn about and work on varying aspects of climate change, which included joining the Sustainus youth delegations to the COP 24 UN Climate Conference. Her daughter had indicated that three years ago, at the COP 21 UN Climate Conference, 195 participating nations had set the goal to stay below 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming acknowledging the disproportionate impacts that could have on vulnerable low lying coastal communities and countries in the global south as they could reach 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming in just 12 years. Her daughter had noted the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change had released a report that had answered the pressing question of what it would take to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and the findings synthesized from more than 6,000 scientific studies had indicated they needed urgent and unprecedented action by 2030. Passing the 1.5 degree Celsius threshold would mean an increased risk to communities, especially for vulnerable and low-income communities in the global south, to include increased social and political insecurity, water stress, crop failure, worsening refugee crisis, poor air quality, more severe weather, the sea-level rising, diminished fish stocks, more heat-related deaths, etc. They did not have time to wait to prevent the worst of these effects. Her daughter had reiterated that keeping below 1.5 degree Celsius would mean rapid and far-reaching work to cut emissions drastically by 2030 and attain carbon neutrality by 2050. In many places in the United States it was easy say everything was okay even when there was news of water stress affecting people on the other side of the planet. Her daughter wondered how much longer they would have this luxury and felt it was becoming increasingly more difficult to ignore when friends and family in the west were affected by growing forest fires and colleagues and kin on the east were affected by stronger more frequent hurricanes. She believed the luxury of ignorance was already impossible for many vulnerable communities around the world. They had already increased the warming by one degree above pre-industrial levels, meaning they were already two-thirds to the 1.5 degree mark. Her daughter felt that, as
youth, they could not watch quietly as others made the critical decisions that would determine what kind of world they would inherit, and that there was not time for apathy. Traci Wilson-Kleekamp explained she was with Race Matters, Friends, and read the last paragraph on page 39 of the CAAP, which indicated a way to improve efficiency was through communication among employees, and to do that, they needed to first remove barriers between departments since progress on shared issues could suffer and be needlessly expensive with silos. She believed Columbia needed to become different kinds of human beings because they were now trapped in the enlightenment period of colonization and they had pitted themselves as human beings against ideas of property rights, ownership, and freedom while still allowing people to die due to isolating those items listed in the CAAP as it had confounded their ability to work together as human beings. She commented that a lot of their ideology about this was rooted deeply in slavery, which involved exploiting marginalized people and taking land, and noted they still acted in that way. She felt that any commission that worked on this could not be advisory. It had to be a regulatory commission. In addition, she believed all of the commissions should talk to one another, which would involve producing minutes that were more than one sentence so they all knew what was happening. Otherwise, it was just a “pretend” democracy. She stated that if they really cared about taking care of humans, they had to get their proverbial act together, which meant they had to cross a lot of boundaries and barriers as a community.

Mayor Treece commented that he thought one of the assets and attributes of the Mayor’s Task Force on Climate Action and Adaptation Planning was its intersectionality. They had sixteen disparate interests, which had an impact in terms of climate action with business, insurance premium, etc. He believed the success of the CAAP moving forward would be to codify that intersectionality in the form of operations, communications, etc. He pointed out the CAAP was a series of recommendations and not regulations, and how they began to implement it would rely on them to view their budgetary and individual decisions through that lens. He felt 150 recommendations provided a tangible framework and roadmap for how they addressed the issue in both the short and long term.

Mr. Skala stated he enthusiastically supported this action. He explained he was a believer of a lot of the details and information mentioned by the speakers tonight. He commented that they had started in this direction quite a few years ago, and provided the renewable portfolio as an example. Although it had been baby steps at that time, they had achieved a lot in terms of where they were with respect to energy usage. He thought it was beyond question that the scientific community appreciated how fast this climate change was progressing, and agreed it was an emergency. He stated the Council was tasked with a balancing act as they would have to determine where they would put some of their resources. He felt it would be disingenuous to say this would not cost anything, but pointed out it was already costing quite a bit. He thought they might also be able to save some money in the long term. He noted it was easier to build it correctly than to repair it, and hoped they had not lost too much. He commented that this was not just about temperatures increasing and their inability to connect the dots. It also had to do with migration and other issues. He understood a large coal mine would soon open in Queensland, Australia, next to the barrier reef, which could impact that reef. They were not just fighting this within the United States. It was a worldwide issue. He believed they owed it to community and those that worked on the CAAP to do something, and reiterated they would need to determine a balance between it, the roads, infrastructure, etc. He reiterated his support for the CAAP.

Mr. Trapp acknowledged that some people were opposed to this process even though he remained supportive. He understood there would be costs and they would have to make tough choices as a Council and a community as they moved toward implementation of the CAAP. He noted they would need to look at things in the long view instead of as a short-term political interest. One of his favorite things about city government was that they took the long view. He commented that some of the critiques he had heard involved
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costs, and noted the $158 million in avoided costs had stuck out to him in the presentation of staff. He explained there were limits of long-range planning and pointed out they had a CATSO road plan that went out about 40 years and had costs, but it still remained an important and salient document when making decisions about development and road access in the future. They planned into uncertainty and it served to keep them centered and fed into the decision they made. He hoped they could continue to make decisions best for the long term interest of the community. He stated he was also supportive of staff bringing back a report with options for implementation, and noted his preference at this time would be a retooling of the Environment and Energy Commission (EEC).

Mr. Thomas thanked staff and the Task Force for an impressive body of work over a relatively short time period as it would give the entire community direction with regard to how to mitigate the impacts of ongoing climate change. He commented that they had a direction for getting out of the long-term coal contracts they had been laboring under for at least a decade. They also had a clear indication that they needed to embrace Smart Growth principles and guide the investments coming into the community in a way that created efficient and compact development patterns so they could reduce infrastructure costs and travel distances. He thought they also needed to review the CATSO plan because he believed it was completely incompatible with the CAAP as it had unrealistic massive road expansion projects. In addition, he felt they needed to commit themselves as a community to a really inclusive visioning process and strategic community plan for a modern and efficient public transit system. He commented that they had done well in the last few decades in developing safe, accessible, and enjoyable pedestrian and bicycle systems, and thanked the late Mayor Darwin Hindman for his leadership on that, but believed they now needed to compliment those active transportation systems with a convenient and effective public transportation system so they drove fewer miles and owned fewer cars to achieve a reduction in their carbon footprint.

Mayor Treece made a motion to amend PR89-19 per the amendment sheet. The motion was seconded by Mr. Skala and approved unanimously by voice vote.

Mayor Treece commented that he was not one to create another commission and agreed with Mr. Trapp in that it might be timely to retool the EEC. He understood it had three appointees of the County, and pointed out the Task Force had consisted of sixteen members. He suggested they review the charge of the EEC to determine any overlap and what they might want with the implementation of the CAAP.

Mr. Skala agreed this might be a responsibility for the EEC, but it would have to undergo some changes, and they would need to consider those changes. He suggested any report from staff include the potential for a new permanent board or commission even though he tended to favor the approach of Mayor Treece.

The vote on PR89-19, as amended, was recorded as follows: VOTING YES: TREECE, RUFFIN, TRAPP, SKALA, THOMAS, PITZER, PETERS. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Policy resolution declared adopted, reading as follows:

Mayor Treece stated that with the vote to adopt the CAAP, he would to discharge the Mayor’s Task Force on Climate Action and Adaptation Planning from service with the appreciation of Council.

B149-19 Authorizing an annexation agreement with Fred Overton Development, Inc. for property located on the north side of Gillespie Bridge Road (Case No. 18-80).

See discussion with B150-19.
B150-19 Authorizing a connection agreement with the Boone County Regional Sewer District for sewer connection of the proposed Perche Ridge Subdivision located on Gillespie Bridge Road to the City’s wastewater collection and treatment system.

The bills were given second reading by the Clerk.

Mr. Teddy provided a staff report.

Ms. Peters understood this had not been rezoned by Boone County. Mr. Teddy stated that was correct. He assumed there had been conversations, but was not aware of any notices indicating a public hearing.

Mr. Pitzer asked if the annexation agreement was contingent upon the rezoning. Mr. Teddy replied the data would have to be revised because it recited it would be approximately 34 lots. He explained the City was not granting any kind of land use proposal here. Mr. Pitzer understood, and asked if there would still be an annexation agreement on the property if the rezoning and subdivision approval were denied by the County. Mr. Teddy replied he thought there still would, but noted the data would not be accurate so he was not sure if they would move forward.

Mr. Pitzer asked if there was any cost to the City with this annexation agreement or the extension of sewer services. Mr. Teddy replied the City was not offering any kind of municipal service at this time. There would not be any police protection, solid waste pick-up, or any other route-based service. He thought Boone Electric Cooperative served the area. Mr. Pitzer understood the cost of extending sewer to the property would be borne by the developer. Mr. Teddy stated that was correct.

Mr. Skala asked how far this property was from the boundary of the City. Mr. Teddy replied he thought it was likely close to a couple thousand feet west of the existing City boundary. Ms. Peters asked how far it was along the road. Mr. Teddy replied it was close to 2,000 feet of road.

Tim Crockett, an engineer with offices at 1000 W. Nifong Boulevard, commented that the property consisted of about 17 acres and was currently zoned A-2 in the County. He explained they would go to the County once they secured sanitary sewer of some nature, whether that was onsite sanitary sewer or a connection agreement with the Boone County Regional Sewer District (BCRSD). After securing sewer, they would be able to go to the County for approval of a preliminary plat. He stated they were proposing 34 single-family residential units and were only asking Council for approval of the annexation agreement while the BCRSD was only asking for approval of a connection agreement. The sewer lines that would be built to serve the development would be BCRSD sewer lines. In addition, those residing in those homes would be BCRSD customers. They were not asking for any infrastructure extensions by the City or any expansion of the City of Columbia’s system. He commented that they would develop according to the street standards of Boone County, and those met or exceeded the City’s requirements. They would also develop to the stormwater regulations of the County, which met or exceeded the City’s regulations. In addition, the development would be constructed in accordance with the County land disturbance policies, which would meet City requirements. He noted there were also some items in the annexation agreement that they would develop to City regulations, so even though they were in the County, they would conform to the City’s tree preservation rules, etc.

Ms. Peters asked why they would conform to City requirements. Mr. Crockett replied the annexation agreement required them to develop according to City regulations. Ms. Peters understood this was due to future annexation. Mr. Crockett agreed. He pointed out this property might not ever be annexed into the City as the annexation agreement was executable by the Council only. The property becoming contiguous at some point in the future would not obligate the Council to annex it. It was at the discretion of the Council.

Mr. Crockett commented that every utility provider including solid waste, fire protection,
and police protection would be handled by Boone County or private companies. No City utilities would serve this development and no City funds would be expended for the development. He explained they were asking for an annexation agreement and a connection agreement that would allow the BCRSD to serve the property and adequately discharge the sewer in the appropriate location. He read from the staff report which indicated that while an onsite packaged sewer system would address the sewage needs for the 34 lots and eliminate the need for this request, the authorization to allow the extension of City public sewer to the property was believed to be in the best interest of the public and the environment. He explained the development of this property could take place as they could construct a localized packaged treatment facility at this location with a point discharge into the Hinkson Creek, but they thought it was environmentally sound to tie into the City’s sewer system as it was nearby and had adequate capacity. He noted they would pay a premium for that access as they would pay 1.5 times the connection rate as those within the City of Columbia. The City would recover all of their prior costs and then some. He reiterated the City was not obligated to annex this property in the future.

Mr. Pitzer understood the connection fee was 1.5 times the City charge, and asked about the monthly charge which he thought was 80 percent. Mr. Crockett stated he believed there were two portions to the monthly charge, and one was 100 percent and one was 80 percent. Mr. Sorrell explained the developer would pay 1.5 times the connection fee for all of the lots as long as they were outside of the City boundary. The BCRSD would then pay the City 100 percent of the monthly base charge and 80 percent of the volume charge, and the reason was because the base charge was supposed to pay for capital costs and they needed to recover 100 percent of the capital costs. The 80 percent just involved wastewater treatment, and not maintenance of the collection system. Mr. Pitzer asked for the weighted average. He wondered if it was 90 percent. Mr. Sorrell replied he had not done that calculation, but thought it was likely closer to 85 percent.

Mr. Pitzer understood if this was denied the applicant would pursue the onsite option. Mr. Crockett stated that was correct. Mr. Pitzer asked if they had started any work on it or had looked into it. Mr. Crockett replied they had wanted to go through this route of tying into the existing sanitary sewer first as they believed it was the most environmentally sound proposal. He noted the annexation agreement before the Council tonight was not new as the Council had approved one that was very similar about six months ago. He commented that the Council had approved numerous annexation agreements, i.e., 20-30 in the past twenty years.

Mr. Skala assumed Mr. Crockett and Mr. Overton had done some of the analysis in terms of the cost of the new sewer, and if they had not, he suggested they do it because he thought they might end up with localized sewer relief. Mr. Crockett stated they had evaluated the cost of the gravity sewer to the City of Columbia, and it was something they could manage.

Mr. Skala noted there had been photos of flooding in the area, and that would be their problem if this property developed in the County. Mr. Crockett stated that was correct. He explained he drove by this location twice a day every day, and understood the area was susceptible to flooding, but they had studies for the area and knew where they could place buildings so they did not flood. He commented that they were comfortable in their work and in working with FEMA to ensure that was accomplished. In this situation, if approved, they would work with the Boone County Floodplain Manager to make sure they accommodated both FEMA regulations and County regulations. He noted the County regulations with regard to floodplain were similar to that of the City so they would have to elevate the property to be above the floodplain. He pointed out the County had looked into police and fire protection services, and fire protection would come from the other direction and it was likely police protection would do the same. All of their services would come around the backside, unlike the services of the City.

Mr. Skala understood annexation agreements had been approved by the Council in the
past, but noted most of those had occurred prior to the urban service boundary guideline that had recently started to guide Council policy in terms of annexation. He asked Mr. Crockett how that had affected the way he reviewed proposals. Mr. Crockett replied he did not consider the urban service area as a hard and fast line. It was something that needed to be considered for every request in terms of what City funds would be expended by going beyond the urban service area and whether services would be stretched. In this instance, the development was outside of the urban service area, but the City would not expend any funds as the City would not provide police or fire protection or solid waste or other services.

Mr. Thomas pointed out there would be City expenditures if the property was annexed in the future. Mr. Crockett agreed, but noted that was at the discretion of Council, and it did not have to be annexed even if contiguous to the City limits. It would remain in the County if the Council decided to not annex the property.

Mr. Thomas understood the developer would look at an onsite sewer system if this request was denied and that a zoning change would need to be approved by the Boone County Commission. He asked if there was precedent at the County level with regard to granting a zoning change from agriculture to residential. Mr. Crockett replied yes. He explained the County had a point system based on the services available to the project and the last hurdle they needed to overcome was sewer as they felt the other services were adequate. He pointed out the Planning Department at Boone County had instructed them to acquire a sewer connection via a connection agreement involving the City and the BCRSD or an onsite package system involving the BCRSD.

Mr. Thomas commented that discussion with many requests for a zoning change was whether adjacent property owners approved of the change in use, and asked if that was considered with a County rezoning request. Mr. Crockett replied it did not really play a part with regard to the Planning Department, but noted he could not speak for what was weighed by a Planning and Zoning Commissioner or County Commissioner when they voted.

Ms. Peters understood the sewer line would be extended through Perche Creek and that they would pay for it. She asked if they would do the work as well. Mr. Crockett replied yes, and explained his client would hire a private contractor to build the entire sanitary sewer system. The City’s sewer system would not be any different after construction than it was today. The sewer lines they built at their expense would be turned over and managed by the BCRSD. The City would not have any obligation to maintain lines, manholes, or connections. Ms. Peters asked if the sewer system would become the responsibility of the City if the property was annexed in 20 years. Mr. Sorrell replied it would remain a BCRSD sewer forever per the annexation agreement. Mr. Crockett reiterated maintenance would be the responsibility of the BCRSD. There would not be any obligation by the City. Mr. Pitzer asked for the reason. Mr. Sorrell replied that was the way it had been handled in the past and it was the way they had done this one. He understood that was not a good answer. He thought it was likely due to the fact that originally they were taking out existing treatment facilities they owned and were connecting them to the City’s system. It had then been changed to a process of new development outside the corporate limits, and per state law, the City could not serve it without their approval or them being involved. He noted they had an interest in having those customers. Mr. Pitzer explained he felt that those facilities would be the City’s responsibility upon annexation. Mr. Glascock stated the agreement indicated they were the customers of the BCRSD. He pointed out the BCRSD had debt on some items and therefore needed that revenue to cover that debt.

Mr. Ruffin asked why it was more environmentally sound to connect to the City’s system as opposed to building their own system. Mr. Sorrell replied because it would eliminate point discharge into the stream. If they connected into the City’s regional facility, it would all go to one discharge location where it was easier to monitor and maintain consistent treatment to meet the levels required by the permit. If they had multiple discharge
locations along the stream, it was much more difficult to consistently meet environmental requirements.

Mr. Thomas understood a system made of hundreds of sewer lines connected to one very large wastewater treatment plant had environmental hazards from leakage of the great distances of pipe, and that was not the case with a larger number of treatment plants with point discharges. Mr. Sorrell explained even small systems had leakage problems. Mr. Thomas asked if it was largely proportional to the length of the lines involved. Mr. Sorrell replied not necessarily. He stated there would be some proportion to that, but a lot had to do with what was connected to the lines and whether it allowed rainwater into the system.

Jana Stephens, 6401 W. Druid Lane, explained she was opposed to the annexation of this land for the same reasons she had been opposed to it in 2017. Nothing had changed, and Gillespie Bridge Road still flooded. It had flooded in May for a few days and it was a major issue. She commented that if she understood Mr. Crockett correctly, the developer would build up the land so the houses did not flood. She wondered where the water would go, and believed it would flood Gillespie Bridge Road more frequently. She reiterated nothing had changed and felt flooding would greatly increase the response time for emergency services. If she understood Mr. Crockett correctly, the services would not be coming from the City. They would come from I-70, across Highway UU, and across Gillespie Bridge Road. She commented that according to Boone County sources, Gillespie Bridge Road had been closed due to flooding 23 times between 2009 and 2017 for a total of 65 days. What was normally an eight minute drive to the Walmart on Broadway was then 20-25 minutes when going from Gillespie Bridge Road to Highway UU to I-70 to Stadium Boulevard and then south on Broadway. She stated she could imagine City residents demanding Gillespie Bridge Road be raised so they were not isolated from the City a few days per year, and did not feel it was right for a City resident paying City taxes to be isolated from the City due to flooding. She noted that Gillespie Bridge Road might not be capable of handling the increased traffic from more houses, and pointed out 27 year old Timothy Wright had been struck and killed in November 2017 while walking along Gillespie Bridge Road. She asked the Council to not annex this land.

Steve Callis, 6304 Normandy Lane, stated he resided a half-mile south of the proposed subdivision. He referred to an image on the overhead which was a plat map of the proposed subdivision. The red line was an outline of the lots on the eastern edge and the yellow line represented the overlay of the 100-year floodplain. Six lots were totally or partially covered by the floodplain, and in addition to flooding, the lots might be difficult to build on and occupy due to floodplain regulations and the necessity for flood insurance. He understood the agreement being considered required an annexation agreement to qualify for connection to the City’s sewer system. He displayed a diagram with the view from the proposed entrance to the subdivision looking east toward the City of Columbia, and it was normally the primary route for anyone traveling to and from that area of the County unless Gillespie Bridge Road was flooded. He noted it was recently flooded on May 1, 2, and 3 and displayed a picture of the flooded and impassable road. When that occurred residents had to go to the Midway exit and back into town along I-70. This was an inconvenience for anyone wanting to work, shop, or play in town, but it could be life threatening if someone was waiting for first responders. He commented that previous research had shown that Gillespie Bridge Road had flooded an average of 2-4 time per year in recent years. He asked the Council to deny this request.

Scott Mullins, 6100 W. Gillespie Bridge Road, explained his property was across the street from this 17-acre proposed site. He agreed nothing had changed except for global warming, and flooding was more frequent. He noted the 37 acres adjacent to the 17 acres toward town had been completely under water up until a few days ago. It was now completely muddy. In addition, much of the eastern end of the 17 acres was now under water. He read a letter he had sent to the Council a few years ago, which indicated this lot was three-quarters of a mile from other City developments and would never be
contiguous because the floodplain would never be deemed to be acceptable for R-1 zoning. In addition, over half of the area was within the 100-year floodplain. He felt it had been and would always be prime agricultural and hunting land not suitable for building, and reiterated that it was currently under water. He did not believe it made sense to stretch the City limits through that undevelopable flood area, creating huge islands of area surrounded by the City that would never actually become City property for the benefit of one developer. Since that stretch of land flooded on a regular basis, he did not think it would be beneficial to the City to absorb the cost of maintaining Gillespie Bride Road, raising it to be above flood levels, or building a bridge across the area. He commented that annexation would also create discrepancies in terms of the emergency services provided to the area, and felt the road would need to be raised and potentially widened to support an increase in the amount of traffic on a road that already had a high volume of traffic. Increases in volume would decrease safety and increase the need for emergency response vehicles to reach the area which might not occur in a timely manner and would put residents at risk. It would also add to the responsibility of the City to keep those residents safe. He noted there had been two accidents a couple years ago. He stated the developer did not have any provisions for public spaces or parks on the plan. He did not feel it made sense to allow a County development to tap into the City sewer at the cost of the City. He commented that it was not in the best interest of the City or the surrounding community to allow the City limit borders to be stretched across an undevelopable flood area just to allow one developer to profit at the risk of the safety and current way of life of other citizens. He reiterated it would greatly add to the financial burden and safety responsibilities of the City. It did not seem fair to the hardworking citizens that already lived in the area whose lifestyle could be greatly compromised. He stated it did not make sense for the City to allow this.

Penny Arafe, 3001 Celtic Drive, commented that the minimum time for emergency vehicles to get to them in a flood situation was at least fourteen minutes so it could take longer than fourteen minutes. She felt that was a concern for her and her neighbors. She explained they had an emergency situation in the neighborhood where a young child died, but did not know how long it had taken them to get there. She stated they wanted emergency vehicles to be able to respond in a timely manner and did not want anything to make the situation worse than it was already. She was concerned about the safety factor of another subdivision being developed in terms of traffic on Gillespie Bridge Road as well. She pointed out they, as neighbors, were present before Council again as they were all concerned. She hoped the Council would take everything said into consideration.

Steve Stonecipher-Fisher explained he was on the Board of the Westcliff Homeowners Association and stated his concern was that the plan was for 34 houses to be placed on a 17-acre piece of land they would have to build. On the City side, the homes along the road for about a mile were about 1.5 acres each, and on the County side, they were 2.5 acres or more. He did not feel it was an appropriate addition and it would create all of the problems previously mentioned. He thought the intent was to get City services to that area so development could occur when the City annexed some day in the future. He did not believe this was the appropriate way to go about it.

Caleb Colbert, an attorney with offices at 827 E. Broadway, pointed out the question the Council was deciding tonight involved what to do with wastewater on the property, i.e., whether they approved a connection to the City sewer agreement or whether they had an onsite system. A lot of the comments made this evening had to do with actual annexation, and that had been the 2017 request that had been voted down. They knew they were not going to extend all City services to this property, and they only needed to decide what to do with sewer service. If flooding was a concern, he felt one connection to the City main was the best way to dispose of wastewater on the property. Multiple discharges in an area that flooded did not seem to be an environmentally sensitive or prudent direction. He stated they would appreciate the support of Council.
Mr. Skala agreed the City was not in the position to prevent any development in this area as that was within the auspices of the County, and the issue before them was with regard to the sewer. On the other hand, it was a bit premature to accept future responsibility for soft and hard infrastructure should the property eventually be annexed. He stated he was uncomfortable with assuming that type of responsibility. He felt that was balanced by what might be the best sewer solution for the property since there were some legitimate environmental concerns as well. He commented that he was not in the position to dictate to the County as to whether to allow this development or not and reiterated he was uncomfortable assuming the potential responsibilities as they could result in some real problems in the future.

Mr. Trapp commented that he was of mixed mind on this development. He thought there was an argument that it was better for the environment to tie into the City’s sewer system, and he did not believe that could be matched by smaller facilities because they could not do that same type of treatment. He understood the staff report indicated they should approve it unless it adversely impacted a sewer provision or a future land use planning effort. He did not feel it adversely impacted a sewer provision, but was concerned about land use. It was a unique area with a distinctly rural culture, a very limited road infrastructure, and environmental sensitivity. He did not believe City development standards were the most appropriate. He thought they needed a west area planning process similar to the east area planning process. What would happen with development on the western edge of the City was unsettled due to the rejection of the Midway sewer extension. He noted there had been legitimate questions from the council members that had defeated that proposal and they had not reached a consensus as to how it might look. If they facilitated the development by providing a lower cost sewer option and the County approved the rezoning, they would allow an inappropriate suburban-style subdivision in the middle of a rural area, which would negatively impact future land use planning efforts. He hated to see this development being tied up due to the lack of planning resources. He thought rural clustering, where they had a provision for preserving pasture land, farm land, and environmentally sensitive areas, was appropriate development for this area. He was not sure how to get there, but felt a planning process was needed. He noted he might ask about the costs and resources necessary for that during council comments later tonight. He commented that he was eager to see what others had to say as he had mixed feelings.

Mr. Thomas stated he agreed with everything Mr. Trapp had said during the latter part of his comments. He commented that he was not of two minds and did not feel this was the kind of development he wanted to support in this location. He was not sure it was the type of development they should be supporting anywhere as it involved 34 half-acre lots. He noted he would vote against it. In terms of the west area planning process, he believed they should work closely with the County in developing the plan along with all of the landowners and stakeholders. He felt that had been a good process in the past and thought it was called for here before they supported any further development west of the Perche Creek.

Mr. Pitzer explained he agreed with many of comments of Mr. Trapp as well, but pointed out the land use decision was not theirs to make. It was not within their purview or their responsibility. He did not believe approving this would facilitate any sort of development because the development could happen regardless of whether this agreement was approved. If there were concerns about the type of development, it should be directed to the County Commission as they had their own planning and zoning processes. He reiterated it was not their decision to make and should not be basis of any decision they made. If they disagreed with annexation agreements or the sewer connection policy, that was a separate philosophical discussion. He thought they ran the risk of making decisions that had unintended consequences when they made decisions for the wrong reasons and for reasons that were outside the purview of this Council.

Ms. Peters stated she would rather the development be connected to the City’s sewer
than for a lagoon or other facility to be constructed. Since it was a regional sewer, she felt it should be used to decrease problems with point discharges and overflows. With regard to the half-acre on one side and 2.5 acres on the other side, she noted she had lived on the 2.5 acre side in another city where she could look out of her window and see a subdivision, and it had been fine. She noted they actually also had flooding whereby one of the ways out of the subdivision would flood requiring them to go another way. It had just been life living in that subdivision. In addition, she felt Mr. Pitzer was correct in that this was an annexation agreement for years down the road, and it was a County issue. If the neighbors had concerns with the size of the lots, she thought they should discuss that with the County. She stated she planned to vote in favor of this because she believed they should use utilize the regional sewer system for what it was meant to be used.

Mayor Treece commented that if this project had not been appropriate for annexation, he did not feel there was any way it was appropriate for a pre-annexation agreement. He did not believe there was anything in this for the City. For them to use the capacity City taxpayers had funded and to further extend it beyond the City limits for development in the floodplain would only create further problems and eliminate the possibility of using that asset some time down the road for their own obligations.

Ms. Peters explained she felt this was different because the previous request would have required City services in that they would have to provide emergency services and address the road. This would now be in the County and those services would come from Midway. As a result, there should not be any issue with a flooded roadway because they would be coming from the other direction.

Mayor Treece commented that by extending City infrastructure into the County, they were still increasing the likelihood of further development there. Ms. Peters agreed.

Mayor Treece noted that at some point it would become contiguous and the pre-annexation agreement would be operable.

Mr. Skala stated he had been surprised Mr. Thomas had not mentioned the capacity issue of this development being connected to the City sewer because it would eventually be a capacity issue. He thought the argument Mayor Treece was making was that they had to maintain capacity for City residents. Mr. Thomas commented that they actually had a reasonably adequate connection fee for the sewer and they would receive an extra 50 percent so it was not such a bad situation. Mr. Skala understood that was due to the connection fee, but believed that had to be reconciled with costs in the long term. Mr. Pitzer pointed out it was a regional wastewater facility and they would be provided $130,000 to rehabilitate the existing facility.

B149-19 was given third reading with the vote recorded as follows VOTING YES: RUFFIN, TRAPP, PITZER, PETERS. VOTING NO: TREECE, SKALA, THOMAS. Bill declared enacted, reading as follows:

B150-19 was given third reading with the vote recorded as follows VOTING YES: RUFFIN, TRAPP, PITZER, PETERS. VOTING NO: TREECE, SKALA, THOMAS. Bill declared enacted, reading as follows:

**B159-19** Authorizing a first amendment to development agreement for Somerset Village with St. Charles Road Development, LLC; authorizing an intergovernmental cooperation agreement with St. Charles Road Transportation Development District.

See discussion with B160-19.

**B160-19** Approving the Final Plat of “The Shoppes at Somerset Village Plat 1” located on the northwest corner of the intersection of St. Charles Road and Battle Avenue; authorizing a performance contract.
The bills were given second reading by the Clerk.

Mr. Teddy provided a staff report.

Mr. Thomas asked if the transportation improvements had been designed and whether it was known how they would look. Mr. Teddy replied roundabout construction was underway and the developer was obligated to remove the traffic signal at Battle Avenue and St. Charles Road. He commented that a credit had already been established for improvements to St. Charles Road and the upsizing of Battle Avenue, structurally and in terms of its size. It was designed to eventually be a collector road that would connect Mexico Gravel Road to St. Charles Road to provide an alternate north-south road in that region.

Mr. Thomas commented that the Council had just adopted the CAAP and there were all kinds of structures and plans in place that were not consistent with it. He did not consider an increase to highway capacity transportation improvements. He felt that was something they needed to think about and consider.

Mr. Skala understood these changes were revenue neutral, and asked if that was correct. Mr. Teddy replied yes. He explained the process involving the credits and stated the developer could use the credits for infrastructure already in place or that the developer was obligated to build. At such time all of the credits they were entitled to were allocated, the transportation development district (TDD) revenues could be used by the City. He noted the City had control of those future revenues. He commented that additional development was expected in the area due to the high school, elementary school, park, and residential community, and if there was, they would have some resources. He pointed out this was over and above the standard revenues collected. They were paying 50 cents per square foot on each and every permit with the exception of the University of Missouri facility as it would not be required to pay a permit fee.

Ms. Peters commented that Battle Avenue appeared to be fairly straight and wondered if they would hear requests for traffic calming in the future when it connected Mexico Gravel Road to St. Charles Road. Mr. Teddy replied some of those questions had come up when the Somerset Subdivision had gone to Council. He noted there was a second roundabout planned at Spartan Drive and Battle Avenue. It would not be a speedway as there would be some intersecting streets. He pointed out there was also some curvature in the road and it would also be a busy area with bus traffic. Ms. Peters stated she was concerned about kid traffic. Mr. Teddy explained they had processes for intervening when there were concerns about excessive speeds on roads, but hoped this would not become one of those situations.

Mr. Pitzer asked if a medical office was one of the original uses of the PD plan. Mr. Teddy replied yes. He explained it had formerly been called an O-P District. They now designated everything as planned district on the map and a medical use would be allowed under that designation.

Mr. Pitzer understood the University was tax-exempt and that they were also not bound by the City’s building codes and zoning restrictions, which included tree preservation, stormwater management, etc. He asked if that was true. Mr. Teddy replied he thought they had to abide by stormwater regulations per an agreement. They would also follow building codes, but self-performed that work. He noted they had professionals to ensure buildings were built according to code, but they were exempt from the City’s zoning. Mr. Pitzer understood that would continue for as long as the University owned this piece of land. Mr. Teddy stated that was correct unless laws changed.

Mr. Trapp stated he felt these were appropriate changes based on the use and though it would be a good place for a medical clinic. He could see why it led to a cascading series of changes.

Mayor Treece noted he had a briefing with staff today in terms of how the 2012 agreement had contemplated taxpayers would be protected and whether there was any impact to the obligation of the developer. He was confident there was not. One of the comments of a representative of the Finance Department was that if this TDD ever produced revenues, all
of those revenues would flow through the City with the City discharging those funds. He pointed out a TDD was basically a judge approved taxing entity, and there were five board members on this TDD. Since the City was handling the money, he felt the taxpayers should have some representation on that five member board. He explained the City could appoint a non-voting advisory member per the intergovernmental cooperation agreement, but noted he wanted to amend that to make that representative a full member of the board of directors.

Ms. Thompson asked Mayor Treece if he was suggesting that representative be a voting member because she thought that could only apply to a property owner or a property owner’s representative. Mayor Treece replied he would suggest changing “advisor” to “member” in Section 4.5 of the intergovernmental cooperation agreement. Ms. Thompson understood it would be a member that served as a representative of the owner. Mayor Treece explained he would want the City to appoint the person as he wanted the perspective of a taxpayer instead of the perspective of the owner.

Mr. Pitzer asked if the owner would have to agree to it. Mayor Treece replied the owner was agreeing to it in the intergovernmental cooperation agreement. Mr. Pitzer explained he was fine with the provision, but thought they could theoretically not agree to it. Mayor Treece stated they were agreeing to it by signing the agreement. Mr. Pitzer pointed out they had not signed it yet. Mayor Treece explained he had reached out to the owners and they were fine with that provision.

Mayor Treece made a motion to amend Section 4.5 of the intergovernmental cooperation agreement associated with B159-19 to add a voting member to the TDD board of directors as a City representative. The motion was seconded by Mr. Trapp and approved unanimously by voice vote.

B159-19, as amended, was given third reading with the vote recorded as follows VOTING YES: TREECE, RUFFIN, TRAPP, SKALA, THOMAS, PITZER, PETERS. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Bill declared enacted, reading as follows:

B160-19 was given third reading with the vote recorded as follows VOTING YES: TREECE, RUFFIN, TRAPP, SKALA, THOMAS, PITZER, PETERS. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Bill declared enacted, reading as follows:

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

The following bills were given second reading and the resolutions were read by the Clerk.

B146-19 Approving the Final Plat of “Westbury Village” located on the northwest corner of Scott Boulevard and the southwest corner of Smith Drive; authorizing a developer agreement guaranteeing installation of public improvements and irrevocable letter of credit (Case No. 118-2019).

B147-19 Approving the Final Plat of “Wellington Villas Plat 4” located on the east side of Canyon Ridge Drive; authorizing a performance contract (Case No. 98-2019).

B148-19 Vacating a sewer easement on Lot 5 and Lot 6 within Academy Village Plat 1 located southeast of the Green Meadows Road and Carter Lane roundabout (Case No. 121-2019).

B151-19 Amending Chapter 14 and Chapter 24 of the City Code to expand the designated metered mobile food vending zones within the Downtown Community Improvement District (CID).

B152-19 Amending the FY 2019 Annual Budget by appropriating transportation
sales tax funds to the Public Works Department street maintenance account.

B153-19 Amending the FY 2019 Annual Budget by appropriating funds to pay costs of a condemnation settlement related to the Burnam Rollins Providence Intersection project.

B154-19 Amending the FY 2019 Annual Budget by appropriating funds for construction of the Forum Boulevard and Green Meadows Road intersection improvement project.

B156-19 Accepting a donation from Petco Foundation for equipment and supplies for the arson dog in the Fire Department - Fire Marshal’s Division; amending the FY 2019 Annual Budget by appropriating funds.

B157-19 Amending the FY 2019 Annual Budget by appropriating funds for the Flat Branch expansion project.

B158-19 Amending the FY 2019 Annual Budget by appropriating funds to finalize and close out the Short Street parking garage capital improvement project.

R90-19 Setting a public hearing: proposed construction of a storm drain replacement project on a portion of South Greenwood Avenue.

R91-19 Setting a public hearing: proposed construction of the FY 2019 storm water rehabilitation improvement project along portions of Ann Street, Bluff Dale Drive, McKee Street, Ridgemont, Rollins Road at Brewer Drive and Sinclair Road.

R92-19 Setting a public hearing: proposed construction of the FY 2019 sanitary sewer rehabilitation project.

R93-19 Setting a public hearing: consider the FY 2020 Capital Improvement Project Plan for the City of Columbia, Missouri.

R94-19 Granting a temporary waiver from the requirements of Section 16-185 of the City Code to allow possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages for the annual Global First Responder/Rally in the Alley fundraising event.

R95-19 Authorizing a contract with North East Community Action Corporation for the provision of Title X family planning services.

R96-19 Authorizing a software license agreement with Remix Software, Inc. for strategic planning and support for the Go COMO fixed route transit operations.


R98-19 Approving the Preliminary Plat for “Boone Prairie” located on the east side of Brown Station Road and south of US Highway 63 (Case No. 117-2019).

The bills were given third reading and the resolutions were read with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES: TREECE, RUFFIN, TRAPP, SKALA, THOMAS, Pitzer, Peters. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Bills declared enacted and resolutions declared adopted, reading as follows:
VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IX. INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

The following bills were introduced by the Mayor unless otherwise indicated, and all were given first reading.

**B161-19** Approving the Final Plat of “Academy Village Plat 3” located southeast of the Green Meadows Road and Carter Lane roundabout; authorizing a performance contract (Case No. 120-2019).

**B162-19** Amending Chapter 2 of the City Code to change the name of the “Columbia Community Development Commission” to the “Housing and Community Development Commission” and updating requirements relating to membership, meetings, duties and responsibilities, and conflicts of interest.

**B163-19** Authorizing assignment of interests in grants of easements from Conley Road Transportation Development District relating to the recently completed Conley Road to East Business Loop 70 extension project.

**B164-19** Authorizing a lease agreement and temporary construction easement with Wendling Development, LLC for construction, operation and maintenance of a public transit shelter and pad on the east side of Carter Lane, approximately 200 feet from the intersection of Carter Lane and Green Meadows Road.

**B165-19** Authorizing the acquisition of additional easements for the Nifong Boulevard corridor improvement project between Providence Road and Forum Boulevard/Willowcreek Lane.

**B166-19** Authorizing the replacement of storm drainage and sanitary sewer infrastructure along a portion of Garth Avenue north of Lynn Street; calling for bids through the Purchasing Division.

**B167-19** Authorizing the extension of two 13.8 kilovolt electrical feeder circuits from the Rebel Hill Substation to the proposed ten (10) megawatt Truman Solar Facility located east of Burnside Drive; authorizing the Purchasing Division to issue a contract for a portion of the work utilizing a duly authorized term and supply contractor.

**B168-19** Authorizing a master power purchase and sale agreement confirmation letter with NextEra Energy Marketing, LLC for a capacity exchange as it relates to Midcontinent Independent System Operator's (MISO's) resource adequacy requirements.

**B169-19** Authorizing the acquisition of easements for replacement of the water distribution infrastructure along Country Club Drive South and Elliott Drive.

**B170-19** Amending Chapter 22 of the City Code relating to the private source inflow and infiltration reduction program.

**B171-19** Amending the FY 2019 Annual Budget by appropriating funds from the Sanitary Sewer Utility Fund retained earnings account to various FY 2019
sanitary sewer capital improvement projects.

B172-19  Amending the FY 2019 Annual Budget by appropriating funds from the sale of Water and Electric System Revenue Bonds to various FY 2019 water capital improvement projects.

B173-19  Accepting conveyances for sewer purposes; accepting Stormwater Management/BMP Facilities Covenants.

X. REPORTS

REP51-19  North 763 Community Improvement District - Board Membership.
          See discussion with REP53-19.

REP52-19  North 763 Community Improvement District - FY 2019 Annual Budget.
          See discussion with REP53-19.

REP53-19  North 763 Community Improvement District - Reports on Services, Revenues, Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2017 (October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017) and Fiscal Year 2018 (October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018).

Mayor Treece commented that they had identified some deficiencies with the North 763 CID and he had spoken with a majority of the board members to see if they were willing to serve and follow the statute. He noted he had received assurances that they would look at the resources of the CID in terms of how they were expended and intended to comply with the annual reporting requirements to City Council as required by statute. He understood they would also separate the accounting from the legal representation so there were appropriate checks and balances. He stated he felt confident that there was a plan of action to address the deficiencies.

Mayor Treece noted he would appoint Matt Gass, Kim Barnes, and Ryan Vossen to terms ending in December 2020. He pointed out they had a majority of board members in expired terms, which was one of the problems identified. He asked for the consent of Council, and Council was agreeable to those appointments. He asked if there were any objections, and no one objected.

REP56-19  Proposed amendments to Chapter 2 of the City Code as it relates to accounts receivable administration.

Mr. Glascock provided a staff report.
Mayor Treece asked for the current policy. In his last three years, he thought he had seen a list of write-offs only once. Mr. Glascock replied it was supposed to occur annually with the budget. Mayor Treece understood that had not happened. Mr. Glascock stated that was correct. Mayor Treece thought it would be great if they could follow the ordinance.

Mayor Treece asked if there was a policy on what was written off. Mr. Glascock replied there was a policy for the utilities, but not for other things. Mayor Treece understood those included parking tickets, development fees, etc. Ms. Peters asked for clarification regarding the development fees. Mr. Glascock clarified it would include landfill services, health insurance premiums, and parking permits. It would involve anything they collected other than utilities where there was bad debt.

REP57-19  Correspondence from the Tree Board.

Mr. Teddy provided a staff report.
Mr. Skala commented that the tree canopy idea had originated with former Mayor Darwin
Hindman and the Tree Board had been an outgrowth of that. He stated he would favor both recommendations as they were reasonable.
Mr. Trapp agreed.

Mr. Pitzer asked if the City arborist was involved on a regular basis now. Mr. Teddy replied yes, and explained the City arborist was an employee of the Community Development Department and a liaison to the Tree Board. The review of capital projects would depend on the department and projects as foresters were also employed in other departments. They had the in-house expertise. Mr. Pitzer understood someone was reviewing those projects now. Mr. Teddy stated he was not sure at what level. He explained there was a difference between involving an arborist and incorporating their suggestions into a design versus looking at a designed facility and making decisions in the field with regard to what to do for particular trees that might be affected by the facility. He reiterated he could not speak to the level of involvement.

Ms. Peters understood the Shepard to Rollins trail had likely been an impetus to this and asked Mr. Griggs to speak on that project as she believed many people had looked at the trees associated with that project to include the City’s arborist. Mr. Griggs explained the Parks and Recreation Department had numerous certified arborists on staff that they consulted on projects. In fact, many current arborists were former foresters that had moved up to the arborist positions. He stated they took into consideration the flora and fauna for all of their projects.

Ms. Peters asked if that was true of the Shepard to Rollins trail. Mr. Griggs replied yes. He explained more hours had been spent on it than a lot of other projects. Ms. Peters noted she had seen the list of trees and how the City was trying to mark them so as to not impact them if possible.

Mr. Skala commented that they had learned a lot in the last few years, and in the trail process, they now identified trees they needed to protect as habitats for bats. He provided that example as something they had not done in the past. He reiterated they had come a long way, but noted he thought it would be a good idea to have a certified arborist look at capital projects depending on the level of involvement.

Mayor Treece asked if the City was required to follow the tree preservation ordinance.
Mr. Griggs replied yes. Mayor Treece asked if the City followed it. Mr. Griggs replied yes. Mayor Treece asked if that applied to all construction. Mr. Griggs replied infrastructure projects were not developments, and they did a lot of infrastructure projects. He explained it would be difficult to preserve a percentage of trees when building a sewer line in a 30-foot easement due to the small area. Mr. Glascock commented that it did not apply to linear construction. If they were constructing a building, they would comply with it. Mayor Treece understood it applied to vertical construction but not horizontal construction. Mr. Glascock stated that was correct.

Ms. Peters asked about the sewer near the MKT trail where it had been cleared. She wondered if that had been done because it was linear and a sewer line. Mr. Glascock replied that had been the location of the easement and the trees had just grown up within that easement.

Mr. Skala commented that the flaw in this was that the 25 percent set aside for Oak and Hickory could be violated eventually. He provided the LeMone bridges behind the LeMone industrial park as an example as those were constructed right through the heart of the 25 percent set aside, and because it had been linear, it had been an exception.

**REP58-19 Administrative Public Improvement Project: Installation of Bus Shelters on West Broadway and Clark Lane.**

Mr. Nichols provided a staff report.

**REP59-19 Update of Chapter 24 New Article X pertaining to Public Utility Rights-of-Way Management.**

Mr. Nichols provided a staff report.
Mr. Pitzer appreciated the update. He noted that at the time the ordinance was passed there had been some concerns from some of the utilities that it would be an unmanageable process, but it did not sound as though that had been the case. He understood staff had requested feedback and had not received any. He felt that indicated it had not had disastrous consequences. He also understood they had some action items to improve the process and thanked them for their work on finding areas for further improvement. If staff needed anything from the Council in terms of ordinances changes, etc., he noted he would be receptive.

Mr. Thomas understood part of the reason for passing the ordinance had been to give the City some leverage over the way private utility companies worked in the right-of-way as some would leave trailing cables across neighborhoods for six months at a time. Mr. Creech explained more so than that was to know where they were working. Since there had not been a permit process, it had been an adventure to determine what was going on when someone came to the Council or staff with a concern. Mr. Thomas asked if staff had seen a reduction in complaints from residents for that kind of behavior since the permitting process was established. Mr. Creech replied yes. He noted there had been more the first six months, but it had calmed down some in the last six months. He explained the companies were doing a much better job of informing citizens of what they were doing before starting the work. Mr. Thomas stated he thought that was good change.

REP60-19 Amendment to the FY 2019 Annual Budget - Intra-Departmental Transfer of Funds.

Mayor Treece understood this had been provided for informational purposes.

XI. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, COUNCIL AND STAFF

Eugene Elkin, 3406 Range Line Street, commented that he thought the type of meter installation being done needed to be considered. He had been told by his family how it should be done, but had later been told by someone else that it was not how it was done at the City. He had been told the water line should be at a depth of three feet, and believed that should be required by ordinance. The person that had installed it had indicated he had never put the hardware under the meter and believed the work should be done by someone with that skillset. He believed an electrician needed to be onsite when it involved a mobile home in order to put the coaxial or heat tape back in place. He noted that work had been paid for once and he did not feel it should be paid for again.

Mr. Elkin stated he had recently utilized public transit and felt sorry for those that had to ride on buses. He explained the bus had been late and there was not enough time to get off of the bus to talk to someone at the Wabash Station about the transit system. If he had, he would not have made it back home. He believed the system needed to be tweaked. He stated his appreciation for everyone involved in making the Wabash Station the center of the system as he felt that was the best situation. He suggested staff ride the bus to listen to the complaints and determine what might be able to be done with limited resources.

Mr. Elkin obtained a flyer from the front desk about after hour services for City sponsored meetings and suggested a media blitz so people were aware of that information.

Traci Wilson-Kleekamp stated a lot of terminology that had been used in the CAAP in terms of climate change and suggested a glossary of terms be created in a google document. She recommended the same be done for affordable housing and other topics, such as the impact of growth.

Ms. Wilson-Kleekamp commented that Mr. Skala had indicated the reason parks and trails were successful was because they had a dedicated sales tax. She believed public transportation should be the best in terms of the services provided to the community and should not be something that was considered extra. It was odd to her that the
community tended to put parks and trails before public transportation. She understood it might be because she was from a larger city. She felt saying that it should be paid for with a dedicated sales tax was a form of creating a silo. She thought one of their biggest challenges was to indiscipline themselves in terms of wanting things to fit in a certain structure. She believed they needed to skip order.

Ms. Wilson-Kleekamp noted she thought the tension points that had been mentioned in the CAAP were important. They spoke to all of the challenges the Council had as a legislative body.

Ms. Wilson-Kleekamp understood Mr. Skala was attending the National League of Cities (NLC) Racial Equity and Leadership (REAL) Council meeting and had asked if there were questions to pass them on to him. She explained she did not have any questions for the REAL Council because she was a person of color and lived in this world, but did want to know how Mr. Skala planned to implement what he was learning from those meetings. She thought he had been participating for a long time and felt it was now time for implementation.

Mr. Thomas stated the residents of the Ridgefield Park Homeowners Association, which owned Ridgefield Park, wanted to downzone the property to protect it. It was currently zoned as R-2 and they wanted to downzone it to office, the O zoning district. He explained they wanted the same benefit R-1 owners received in large group downzonings in terms of cost savings. He noted he had discussed it with Mr. Teddy who had suggested a formal request be made at a council meeting for a report explaining the process so they could then decide whether they wanted to ask for an ordinance. Mayor Treece commented that he was not sure that was the best solution for protecting that property, but that could be discussed later.

Mr. Thomas noted he would be happy to make a request of staff to present other options as well.

Mr. Trapp asked for a staff report with regard to what would be involved in a west area planning process in conjunction with the County. He wanted to know the amount of resources it would take, if it was something that could be done, etc.

Ms. Peters commented that she was not sure they had a southeast area plan either and suggested that be included in the report as well in terms of what that would involve. Mr. Glascock asked for clarification of the area Ms. Peters was considering for a southeast area plan. He explained that when he thought of southeast, he thought of the South Farm and University property. He asked Ms. Peters if she wanted a plan for that. Ms. Peters replied she would like to know what was involved. She understood they only had a Northeast Area Plan at this time. Mr. Thomas noted there was an East Area Plan as well. Ms. Peters stated she would look at that and get back to everyone.

Ms. Peters stated they had recently heard comments about school resource officers and how they interacted with the schools. She noted she was not sure of the interaction or aware of the issues, and wondered if that could be addressed in some manner whether it was a discussion or a report.

Mayor Treece commented that at the budget meeting they held a week ago the Council had agreed to send a letter to the School Board asking for appropriate reimbursement for school resource officers and believed that would trigger a bigger discussion in terms of interaction and if they continued to do so. Ms. Peters stated she would recommend they continue to do so. Mayor Treece thought it should be done at the right price and noted he was not sure they could afford to pull officers out of the community and into schools if they were not being adequately compensated. Ms. Peters stated she agreed, but also felt they should try to keep the lines of communication open between the School Board and the County. Mayor Treece explained his point was that if they continued to have a dialogue about school resources officers it would include how they interacted in the
Mr. Skala noted he was attending the NLC Summer Board and Leadership Meeting in Indianapolis June 25-27, and one of those days was dedicated to the REAL Council. He stated he was a minority white member of that Council and was not sure of the meaning of the comment of Ms. Wilson-Kleekamp. He believed a conversation was needed and felt they had been doing that on Facebook until Ms. Wilson-Kleekamp unfriended him. He commented that it was hard to have a conversation when she left after making claims. He stated he welcomed her comments and was open to engaging in a conversation. He invited others to do the same at ward3@como.gov.

Mr. Skala asked that they continue their discussion from earlier regarding the Broadband Business Planning Task Force. He noted he had been on the Drinking Water Planning Work Group as a voting member and had just avoided the possibility of becoming an officer of that Group. In addition, when it came to making final recommendations to the Council, he had abstained. He stated he would make that pledge with regard to the Broadband Business Planning Task Force. He believed it would provide a more fertile discussion due to the nature and make up of that Task Force if there was an exchange with voting members on agenda items.

Ms. Thompson explained an amendment to the resolution would be required in order to have a voting member of the City Council on the Broadband Business Planning Task Force. The resolution provided for seven members at this time, and the membership had been set out in the resolution.

Mayor Treece commented that he would prefer not to make an amendment. He stated he did not mind if Mr. Skala was a non-voting liaison and helped to guide the Task Force. He thought they crossed a line in terms of advisory and legislative boards or commissions when council members were voting members. He explained he had planned to attend the first meeting to discuss their charge and inform the Task Force of what he would like to receive.

Mr. Skala stated he would defer to the Council and suggested they make it a precedent for any task force, board, or commission in the future that a liaison from the Council should be a non-voting member. He did not feel there should be any exceptions. Mayor Treece commented that he agreed. He explained he felt the same about the Community Land Trust Organization Board. He did not feel council members should be on boards, commissions, or task forces.

Mr. Thomas noted he and Mr. Ruffin were co-chairs of the Mayor’s Task Force on Pedestrian Safety, but they were non-voting members, and believe that had worked well. Mr. Skala stated that was the same for him and Mr. Trapp on the Parking and Traffic Management Task Force. Mr. Trapp agreed, and pointed out the situation had been the same for the Mayor’s Task Force on Community Violence and the Fair Housing Task Force.

Mayor Treece asked Mr. Skala if he was okay with that. Mr. Skala replied he was.

Mr. Skala sent his condolences to Axie Hindman and the Hindman family. He noted he had the privilege of serving with Darwin Hindman when he had been mayor for several years.

Mayor Treece stated he thought the entire Council expressed the same condolences.
XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Treece adjourned the meeting without objection at 11:07 p.m.